

4 dead, 40-50 hurt in Paris metro bomb

PARIS (R) — Four people were killed and at least 40 injured when a bomb exploded aboard an underground railway train in central Paris, French Prime Minister Alain Juppe told reporters on the scene. The blast occurred aboard a suburban express train at the Saint-Michel station close to Notre-Dame Cathedral. The explosion was caused by a bomb, the Paris Public Prosecutor's office said. Mr. Juppe, speaking to journalists at the site of the attack, paid homage to those killed and expressed "the government's concern for the wounded." He also paid tribute to the "quality of the intervention" by police and fire-fighters. Parliament Speaker Philippe Seguin, speaking on behalf of the National Assembly, expressed his "profound distress" at the attack. He called for a moment's silence at a meeting of parliamentary officials held to discuss the legislature's agenda. Rescue officials said blast occurred in the last carriage of a train and that some of the seriously injured remained trapped more than an hour after the blast. Casualties were transported by helicopter and ambulance to hospitals in and around Paris.

Volume 19 Number 5977

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995, SAFAR 25, 1419

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

50 killed in fierce battle in Iraq

NICOSIA (AFP) — At least 50 people were killed in a fierce battle between rival Kurdish factions for control of an area near Arbil in northern Iraq, foreign aid workers said Tuesday. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) unleashed an artillery barrage late Monday on positions held by its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) about 40 kilometres north of Arbil. "At least 50 people died in this clash where the attacking force used heavy artillery," a senior official from a U.N.-affiliated aid group said. Aid workers said they believed the PUK was trying to cut off the KDP headquarters in Saladin, a hilltop resort 30 kilometres northeast of Arbil. The KDP charged, in a statement received in Cyprus, that the PUK had lost more than 25 fighters in repeated attacks on KDP positions east and northeast of Shaqlawa on the road between Arbil and Zakhro since Sunday. "The PUK forces numbered a few thousands and supported with artillery and rockets launched a two-pronged military offensive."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab-political daily published by The Jordan Times Foundation

7 girls drown in Nile

CAIRO (AFP) — Seven girls drowned in the Nile River after their motorboat capsized while taking them to their village in the Delta. Egyptian police said Tuesday. The Girls, who were nine to 15 years old, went to Giza south of Cairo where they worked in farming and would return home every night to their village in the Menufia region. A total of 30 girls were on the boat, which was carrying more than its legal capacity when it capsized on Monday night. Officials said. An investigation has been opened involving the boat's two owners, police said.

8 Muslim Brotherhood members arrested

CAIRO (AP) — Eight members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement have been arrested in the Nile Delta area, raising to at least 35 the number in custody, police officials said Tuesday. The eight were detained Monday in Kafr El-Sheikh, 130 kilometres north of Cairo, said the officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

FIS leader begins hunger strike

PARIS (AFP) — One of the main leaders of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abdelkader Hachani, launched a hunger strike at the weekend in the prison where he is being held, the Arabic daily Al Hayat reported Tuesday. The London-based paper quoted Mr. Hachani's attorneys as saying that he was ill and had begun his hunger strike Sunday to protest a decision preventing him from seeing his family or lawyers. Mr. Hachani, president of the FIS provost executive body, had taken part in recent negotiations between the FIS and Algerian authorities, who blamed him for the failure of the talks two weeks ago.

10 dead, 15 wounded in Bujumbura

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Ten people have been killed and 15 wounded in a possible revenge attack Monday in the Burundi capital Bujumbura, national radio announced Tuesday. Armed men opened fire on two buses carrying Hutus, the ethnic majority in the country. It was apparently in reprisal for an attack on Friday at the Mutanga University campus which left eight dead, including four Tutsi students. The ambush happened Monday afternoon in the north of the city, on the road to the airport, while the bus was heading for the mainly Hutu-populated Buterere district. No further details were available.

Tamil rebels ambush military patrol

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil rebels ambushed a military patrol, killing four soldiers and injuring five in northwestern Sri Lanka on Tuesday, military officials said. The soldiers were returning from a night operation when they were attacked shortly before dawn at Illavankulam village in Puttalam district, 145 kilometres north of Colombo. The attack came several days after the Tamil rebels threatened to kill thousands of Muslim civilians unless they flee Puttalam town by Aug. 1, police said. "We need only an hour to turn Puttalam into a forest of dead bodies as we did in Kattankudi and Eravur," the rebels said in a letter sent to political and religious leaders on July 18 in Puttalam town. Most of the 27,000 people in the town are Muslims.

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb soldiers entered the town of Zepa Tuesday as government defenders of the U.N. safe area fled into the surrounding hills pledging to continue defence of the enclave, according to U.N. officials and government radio reports.

"We can confirm that Bosnian Serb soldiers are in the town of Zepa which appears to be deserted. The Bosnian army, however, no longer seems to be there," Myriam Sochacki, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Bosnian government radio reported that the Zepa local defenders had retreated into the surrounding hillsides. "Holding the main part of the (enclave) the Bosnian army can continue its defence," the radio stated.

A U.N. military team that reached the enclave early Tuesday was able to watch Serb soldiers entering and leaving the town freely, Sochacki said. "There is no resistance," she said.

Hasan Muratovic, a senior government figure, said some civilian representatives had remained behind to negotiate with the Serbs on the evacuation of women and children from Zepa.

"We want this to be done by UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force)," it is not acceptable to us that the Serbs transfer these people from Zepa," he said.

When Serb forces overran the eastern enclave of Srebrenica July 11, thousands of women and children were bussed out of the U.N. safe area without supervision. A U.N. spokesman, Alexander

Ivanko, said on Tuesday: "There is little doubt that some cases of severe human rights abuses occurred (during this operation)."

Thousands of men are believed to be in Serb hands after their forces took the enclave. Hundreds more fled the advancing troops, fleeing across Serb-held mountainous terrain to central Bosnia and safety.

Mr. Muratovic said discussions of a PoW exchange had been underway for several days and continued on Tuesday. "We want an all for all agreement whereby all the men from Zepa and Srebrenica are exchanged for the 450 Serbs we are holding," he said.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic asked UNPROFOR to provide an air-lift of the men from the enclave. Mr. Ivanko said this could only be done with the consent of the Bosnian Serbs which most observers admit is unlikely to be forthcoming.

Mr. Muratovic, the minister responsible for relations with UNPROFOR, said he was confident that a PoW agreement would be reached. "I think we will get an agreement. It is not good for anybody but what else can be done?"

In Sarajevo, British and French troops dug in the big guns they hope will silence Serb attacks on peacekeepers and bolster the flagging U.N. mission.

(Continued on page 7)

Serbs conquer Zepa

NATO seeks deal on airstrikes plan

A group of some 40 wounded people remained in Zepa hospital, the U.N. spokeswoman said, adding that a U.N. medical convoy had left Sarajevo to ferry the injured out of the enclave.

U.N. officials said the liaison team in the town had been shown a document apparently signed by local officials and Miladic Monday evening agreeing to the evacuation of women, children and elderly from the enclave.

Mr. Muratovic said talks were still underway to agree on the evacuation of civilians. He said the Bosnian government had asked Smith to get agreement for the evacuation of sick and wounded and then civilians from Zepa.

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reciprocal treatment. Article six of the draft stipulates that ownership of Jordanian land is permissible for foreigners if they have laws that allow land sale to Jordanians.

"We have presented our objection to the law in a written memorandum. Engaging in the House's discussions is futile... anyway, the majority (needed to endorse the law) is there," he added.

Opposition deputies at parliament could only manage 21 votes against 46 votes in favour of referring the draft law to the joint financial and judiciary committee for discussions at the start of the House current extraordinary session in June.

The draft, which has been amended by the 34-member joint committee last week, allows land sale for foreigners but under strict conditions.

The amendments condition land sale to foreigners with

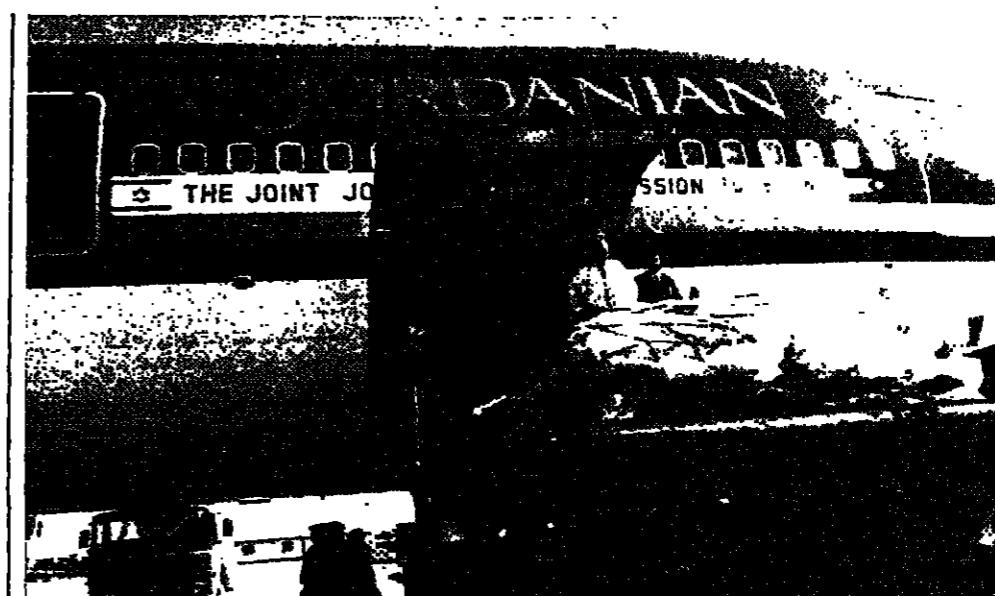
land in the West Bank and Jerusalem from selling to Israelis.

"The amendments introduced are superficial," said Dr. Sa'eed. "Conditioning land sale to Israel with reciprocal treatment is invalid since Israeli laws allow land sale to foreigners through minimum. And giving the authority to the government to have the final decision in these issues is also rejected. It should be the law and not the government that has the final say."

If the draft was approved, three laws that ban dealings with Israel are eliminated. These are: a 1973 law that bans land sale to Israel; a 1958 law that boycotts Israel; and a 1953 law that bans trade with Israel.

Eleven opposition parties

also announced they will stage a sit-in front of parliament this morning.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan talk to reporters before Prince Hassan left Amman for Croatia on board a Royal Jordanian plane carrying humanitarian aid to Bosnia. The relief flight is to the northwest of here, invaded by rebel Serb forces from Croatia a week ago.



Jordan, Israel launch joint relief to Bosnia

King expresses hope other countries will follow suit

Prince Hassan accompanied relief plane in expression of solidarity with Bosnians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel Tuesday sent two relief planes for Bosnian

Muslims in an operation

described by His Majesty King Hussein as part of joint Jordanian-Israeli efforts to relieve the victims of aggression.

The joint mission coincided with the first anniversary of the Washington Declaration.

Saying that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was the first leader to respond to King Hussein's call for aiding the Bosnian people, King Hussein said: "The slogan of us all... Arabs and Jews, Jordanians and Israelis, is working together for the humanitarian causes in the world."

Both planes, each laden with 21 tonnes of medical equipment, tents, blankets, clothing, food and other humanitarian supplies, took off from Amman and Tel Aviv at almost the same time and later landed at Split airport in Croatia, close to Bosnia.

"We hope that our joint effort will be copied by others in the world to whom we say that there should be joint endeavours in performing duty at the humanitarian level without any discrimination," said King Hussein.

"We advocate and seek a just, honourable and lasting peace for this region, which we hope will be realised soon despite attempts on the part of some elements who try to abort or disrupt the peace process from time to time through unacceptable and unreasonable practices," continued King Hussein.

It is hoped, said the King, that the two planes will be returning to Jordan and Israel carrying wounded children for treatment.

Referring to his contacts with world leaders to discuss alleviating the sufferings of the Bosnian people, the King said he has written to the Turkish and Pakistani presidents and sent messages to King Hassan of Morocco and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt expressing hope that these countries will help find a formula for ending the Bosnian tragedy.

This is not the first Jordanian plane with relief supplies that left Amman for Bosnia

as Jordan has sent other planes and more relief supplies, added King Hussein,

who noted that the date of

Jordan has some 3500 troops serving in the United Nations protection force in the former Yugoslavia, the third largest contingent after France and Britain. Most are based in Croatia. Amman has threatened to pull out the forces if Serb attacks are not halted by the world community.

Israel's ambassador to Jordan, who was at the airport at the departure ceremony, urged Bosnia's Serbs and Muslims to follow the footsteps of Arab and Israeli peacemakers.

"We are doing everything to solve our problems through peaceful means and let them follow this example and end the killings," he said.

The aid is to be handed over to Jordanian U.N. peacekeepers in Split, Croatia who would transfer it to Bosnian refugees.

Jordan, which last week raised \$6.5 million for Bosnian refugees, said that Tuesday's shipment was worth JD 400,000, nearly \$600,000.

Meanwhile, Prince Hassan told a press conference upon arriving in Croatia that the joint Israeli-Jordanian mission, which came to relieve the Bosnian people, coincide with the lapse of one year following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

This joint mission from the Middle East to the world at large carries a peace message and underlines the importance of the human dimension.

(Continued on page 7)

Opposition plans sit-in as House starts debating law ending Israel boycott today

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamist deputies and opposition parties intend to stage a sit-in today in front of the Lower House of Parliament to protest a decision by the House's discussion of a draft law that ends the economic boycott of Israel.

"We have presented our objection to the law in a written memorandum. Engaging in the House's discussions is futile... anyway, the majority (needed to endorse the law) is there," he added.

Opposition deputies at parliament could only manage 21 votes against 46 votes in favour of referring the draft law to the joint financial and judiciary committee for discussions at the start of the House current extraordinary session in June.

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PLO, Israel to resume talks despite Monday Tel Aviv blast

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli leaders said they would renew peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

As Jewish state buried five elderly victims of a bus bombing on Tuesday the day Palestinian and Israeli leaders had hoped to reach accord on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

In the wake of the bombing, which further eroded public confidence in the peace process, Israeli officials expressed urgency on resuming talks and reaching an agreement on the much-delayed expansion.

Eran Savid, an aide to Mr. Savit, stressed that the suspension was purely out of respect for the victims and that Israel was anxious to return quickly to the talks.

"There is a sense of urgency," he said.

Israel Radio said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wanted to nail down an agreement quickly. "We are all interested in quickening the talks, both us and the Palestinians," Mr. Rabin spokesman Aliza Goren said.

Mr. Qureia agreed the deadly attack should give new impetus to reaching agreement. "The alternative would be bloodshed," he told the Associated Press.

Israel and the PLO had originally set a July 1 target date for expanding autonomy — which began 14 months ago in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho — to other parts of the West

Bank. After that date passed, negotiators said they hoped to sign an agreement on July 25.

No new deadline has been set. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the talks would resume Wednesday somewhere in Europe, but PLO leader Yasir Arafat said he wanted the talks to stay in the Middle East.

Chances of a speedy agreement seemed slim, with gaps remaining on the timing of an Israeli troop withdrawal from three towns — Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem — and on distribution and control of water and electricity resources in the West Bank.

Callers to media organisations, including the Associated Press, claimed the bombing was carried out by the militant Islamic group Hamas. But unlike after past attacks, when militant groups have released videotapes of the suicide bombers and praised them as martyrs, none has formally claimed responsibility for the attack.

Possibly as a result, there was no large-scale crackdown against suspected militants by Israel or the PLO, as after previous attacks.

Ilanian said the Palestinians fear Monday's attack will lead Israel to toughen its security demands.

(Continued on page 7)

Muslim nations outraged by Bosnian Serb advances

NICOSIA (Agencies) — In Sudan, tens of thousands marched in the streets to protest the latest Serb advances against Bosnian Muslims. In Malaysia, the prime minister declared he would sell weapons to the embattled Muslims, defying U.N. embargo.

His Majesty King Hussein said he was fed up with Serb attacks that he was willing to join Jordanian peacekeepers already in the former Yugoslavia.

Across the Muslim World, leaders have bitterly denounced the ongoing Bosnian Serb offensive and described the United Nations and the Western response as pathetic.

However, it was unlikely that Muslim outrage would translate into immediate, large-scale weapons shipments to the outgunned Bosnian Muslims.

The Serb attacks are "a blatant affront to the feelings of Muslims everywhere and a clear ridicule of the Islamic World," Saudi Arabia's government said Monday following a cabinet meeting chaired by King Fahd.

Cairo's Al Ahram newspaper was even more blunt in an editorial Tuesday: "You coward, infidel and criminal world... move to rescue the innocents and stop the tragedy."

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the grouping of more than 50 Muslim countries, said over the weekend that its members should no longer respect the U.N. ban on shipping guns to Bosnia.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced that his country was prepared to start selling weapons, though he gave no details.

"Malaysia and the OIC will be the light of the world in restoring justice in (Bosnia)," Malaysia's Defence Minister Sayed Hamid Alber said Monday.

Islamic leaders have made many such calls previously, but the Bosnian Muslims have never been able to obtain heavy weapons on a level comparable to the

Serbs.

Iran, long suspected of secretly sending weapons to Bosnian Muslims, "denounced the U.N. and the West for their 'deadly silence' in the face of Serbian advance."

The U.N.'s apathy toward the events in Bosnia will make other nations totally abandon their trust in this organisation," Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted as saying on state-television.

Western threats of air strikes and other stepped-up actions against the Serbs are seen largely as idle threats in most Muslim nations.

"The Serbs have received many warnings," said As Safir, a Beirut newspaper. "The Western warning has become meaningless."

In Sudan's capital of Khartoum, protesters called Monday for an Islamic army to defend the Bosnian Muslims.

During the march in the blistering heat, demonstrators carried banners reading "the killing of Bosnian Muslims is a U.N. strategy" and "death to the Serbs, shame on the West."

While direct military support to Bosnia has been quite limited, some individual Arabs have gone to fight against the Serbs.

Sixteen Arabs were killed in a battle last Friday near Sarajevo, according to Kuwait's Al Watan newspaper, which praised Adel Al Ghanem, a Kuwaiti who was among those "martyred."

Meanwhile, several countries began delivering fresh aid supplies to Bosnian Muslims in Bosnia with arms.

The weekly Saudi cabinet statement, as reported by SPA, expressed the kingdom's "full support" for the "contact group's" recommendations and "continued commitment to offer support to the Muslim Bosnian people on the official and public levels."

It said Saudi Arabia, home to two of Islam's holiest shrines, had recently granted the Bosnian government 50 million riyals (\$13 million), in addition, to more than 800 million riyals (\$215 million), in Saudi public donations.

Two airplanes, one in Jordan and one in Israel, took off from their respective capitals Tuesday on a joint mission to deliver humanitarian aid to Bosnian refugees.

Between them they carried 60 tonnes of medicine, tents, clothes and candies. It marked the first joint Israeli-Jordanian humanitarian operation since the two countries signed a peace treaty last October.

King Hussein said Friday that "I personally am willing to join" the U.N. peacekeeping force.

Arafat happy to be a father

GAZA (R) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, long regarded as the father of the Palestinian cause, was smiling for joy Tuesday about the birth of his first child Zahwa at a Paris hospital.

Asked about his feelings, Mr. Arafat said: "Like any father would."

Mr. Arafat's 32-year-old wife Suha gave birth Monday to a 2.45 kilogramme (5.4 lbs) baby girl named Zahwa after Mr. Arafat's mother. She is the first child of the 65-year-old guerrilla-turned-peacemaker.

"The child and her mother Suha Arafat are doing well," said a statement from the American Hospital in Neuilly just west of Paris. Zahwa weighed in at 2.45 kilogramme (5.4 lbs) after a caesarean delivery at 7:42 p.m. (1742 GMT).

"For Suha Arafat this child conceived in Gaza shortly after Mr. Arafat's return to this autonomy Palestinian territory is a symbol of hope and of peace for Palestinians," the hospital statement said.

"This child will be like all others, she will share the joys and the sorrows of Palestine," it quoted Suha Arafat as saying.

"Happiness must strike

ers in the former Yugoslavia, where 3,200 Jordanian troops are stationed.

The statement was made during a television talk-show designed to raise money for Bosnian refugees.

Saudi Arabia urged Muslim states Monday to give "all forms of support" to Bosnian Muslims and to back an Islamic group's declaration that a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia was "invalid."

King Fahd urged Muslim states to back recommendations of a Bosnia "contact group" of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which met last week.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the king as saying Muslim states should "provide all forms of support, material and moral, to the people and government of Bosnia to enable it to safeguard its independence and sovereignty..."

Others, speaking in the name of fugitive Hamas bomber Yehiya Ayash, blamed Israel for failing to release Palestinian prisoners, including jailed Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

Ayash, 30, is a West Bank chemist who was reportedly trained by Iran and who is suspected of orchestrating five suicide attacks — including the Oct. 19 bus bombing in Tel Aviv that claimed 22 lives.

A senior PLO official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Yasser Arafat's police force had not found Ayash despite a massive search.

The timing of the attack and the target appeared to part of the message.

It came a day before Israel and the PLO had hoped to wrap up an agreement on expanding self-rule to the West Bank and resulted in Israel calling a temporary halt to negotiations held in a Dead Sea resort hotel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the talks would resume after the funerals

The location was also

important — the heart of Israel's wall street where diamond merchants, stockbrokers and investment bankers work in a cluster of gleaming skyscrapers. It drove home the point that no place is safe from the long arm of Hamas' revenge.

"Israel bears responsibility for everything that is happening, especially regarding its continued detention of prisoners, the provocation of settlers, and the closure," said Imad Falouji, a Hamas spokesman.

The attack broke a long respite in suicide bombings. The last was April 9, when bombs were set off near an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip, killing seven soldiers and an American tourist.

PLO police chief

Hamas fighters seek to make their mark, wreck peace.

By Nicolas B. Tatos
The Associated Press



An Israeli border guard checks the work permits of Palestinian workers at the Erez Crossing into the Gaza Strip after a suicide bomber blew himself up killing himself and five more people and wounding 33 others in a bus at the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramet Gan. Israel sealed off Gaza and the West Bank after the blast, throwing 30,000 Palestinians out of work (AFP photo)

Aviv suburb of Ramet Gan. Israel sealed off Gaza and the West Bank after the blast, throwing 30,000 Palestinians out of work (AFP photo)

Major-General Nasser Yousef told reporters last week that the likelihood of a Hamas attack had lessened because Palestinian public opinion was heavily in favour of of autonomy in the West Bank.

The Islamic fundamentalist camp appears to be split, with some political leaders favouring dialogue and a role in self-rule under Mr. Arafat's leadership. Militants of the Izzedine al Qassam, Hamas' military wing, however, favour attacks to pressure Israel into a complete withdrawal and force Mr. Arafat to respect the strength of Hamas and its leaders.

Khaled Amaya, a lecturer at Islamic University in the West Bank town of Hebron, suggested militants are trying to pressure Mr. Arafat to release about 100 Islamic activists held by the autonomous government. Those activists include three senior leaders whose beards and heads were shaved while in jail — a gesture humiliating to Muslims who wear beards as a sign of piety.

Israel had demanded the crackdown on fundamentalists as a sign of the PLO's commitment to the peace process.

"I think the message today is directed to Arafat as much as it is to the Israelis," said Amaya. "It is that you cannot continue to humiliate and torment us and that we will find ways to make you think twice before continuing this campaign against us."

U.S. applauds Turkey for approving constitutional amendments

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Monday applauded Turkey for "approving" amendments to its military-era constitution, saying this should enhance democracy and improve chances for European integration.

On July 23, Turkey's parliament — the Grand National Assembly — approved by the overwhelming majority of 360 to 32, 17 constitutional amendments that were widely supported by the Turkish public and seen as necessary to convince Ankara's Western allies that Turkey was

serious about democratisation.

President Bill Clinton has written Prime Minister Tansu Ciller with his congratulations on her leadership in securing approval for these measures, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

"We also congratulate the leaders of Turkey's other political parties that supported this package," he said. "This package was part of a broad effort to enhance Turkey's democracy, which we support."

Mr. Burns called passage of the amendments a "tremendous achievement."

"Mrs. Ciller, in particular, and

said 'we hope will soon be

signed into law by the Turkish president, Mr. (Suleyman) Demirel."

He also urged the European Union to consider the actions that the Turkish assembly has taken.

"The United States still

strongly supports, and even

more so today, Turkey's bid

to have a customs agreement

with the European Union.

And we think that the action

taken by the Turkish Grand

National Assembly certainly add to the argument of the Turkish government, and others that there ought to be an integration of Turkey in Europe," Mr. Burns said.

Although "very much satisfied that Turkey has gone a long way," he added that "obviously in any country, including our own, there is always room for further improvement. And, I believe, that the United States government feels that the Turkish government ought to continue this effort to liberalise under reform."

In Strasbourg, the Council of Europe Monday welcomed the constitutional reforms approved by the Turkish parliament, calling them encouraging.

Prince Talal was in Jordan, Britain.

He is a graduate of Royal Military Sandhurst, and a member of science degrees, royal relations, School of Foreign of Georgetown in Washington, statement said.

After completion of Prince Talal as company commandant of the Jordanian Forces, and has been serving in the King's military for four and a half years.

Prince Talal is the Royal Princess Ghida

medical exams, take a three-month government training course, and prove they have at least an elementary school education, an Indonesian diplomat said.

The dispute erupted as Indonesia considers phasing out the number of maids it sends overseas, protesting new Indonesian government measures such as demands for higher salaries and refusals to guarantee replacing maids who quit, diplomats and recruiters said.

They also object to rising fees charged by recruitment agencies in Indonesia. Fees have more than doubled from \$900 six months ago to \$2,000, a Saudi recruiter contacted by telephone said.

"There's still some recruiting but it's more or less stopped," recruiter Abdurrahman Al Nashwan told AFP. He complained his agency had not seen the new Indonesian government measures in writing.

While negotiations were underway to end the dispute, Saudi employers were looking for maids from Sri Lanka, Kenya and other countries.

Under the reforms, units

will be able to join political parties.

The new measures were

designed to improve conditions for Indonesian workers abroad, especially domestic helpers who are most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, the diplomat said.

Also, women have to be at least 25 years old to qualify for overseas work and extensive checks are now required to make sure papers are not forged to meet demand for underage workers, the diplomat said.

It is very strange but most of the Saudis want the maids to be under 20 years old," he said. But a Saudi recruiter denied this, saying "not even one per cent" of employers asked for young maids.

Many Saudi employers also

expect maids to arrive within a month, but with the new rules the domestic helpers will take three months to arrive, the diplomat said.

"Everything is hurry up," he added.

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Home News



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attends a piano recital by the first recipients of the Purcell Anniversary Fund at the residence of British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe (Petra photo)

Queen attends piano recital by first Purcell Anniversary Fund recipients

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attended a piano recital held by the first three Jordanian recipients of the Purcell Anniversary Fund at the residence of British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe, according to a Royal Court statement.

The Purcell Anniversary Fund, which was established in March 1995 with the encouragement and patronage of Queen Noor, was created on the 300th anniversary of the death of the renowned English composer Henry Purcell.

It is a non-profit charitable organization, administered by the British embassy in Amman, that awards music scholarships to Jordanians and permanent residents of Jordan studying at the secondary and university levels. The fund seeks to improve the standards of musical education in Jordan and to meet the needs of talented young musicians who would

benefit from continuing their musical education in Britain, the statement added.

After the recital, Queen Noor chatted with the young pianists, Malak Al Tahar, Tala Tutunji and Tarek Younis, and said she hoped that the Purcell Fund will work closely with the National Music Conservatory to produce a new generation of accomplished musicians, who will enrich and enhance musical life in Jordan, the statement said.

Prince Talal turns 30 today



Prince Talal Ben Mohammad

Amman (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, His Majesty King Hussein's military secretary turns 30 years old today, a Royal Court statement said.

Prince Talal was educated in Jordan, Britain, and the United States.

He is a graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and has bachelor of science and a master of science degrees in international relations from the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., the statement said.

After completing his education, Prince Talal served as company commander in the Jordanian Special Forces, and has served as the King's military secretary for four and a half years.

Prince Talal is married to Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal.

Advocates of breastfeeding seek to make hospitals 'baby friendly'

Amman (Petra) — In preparation for International Breastfeeding Week, which starts on Aug. 1, the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Tuesday organised a seminar on promoting breastfeeding and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

Chairman of the National Committee for Breastfeeding Makram Nsheiwat said the ministry seeks to enforce legislation on maternal and child health and to promote

breastfeeding, by allowing working mothers some time to breastfeed their children in the work place. He referred to a recent government decision increasing the maternity leave to three months, up from two months to enable working mothers to breastfeed their children and care for them.

Participants in the seminar discussed such issues as the national plan for promoting baby friendly hospitals, role of gynaecologists and paediatricians in promoting breastfeeding, and the 10 steps to successful breastfeeding.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

* "Street Show" by The Chipolatas at The Forum at 9:30 p.m.

* Concert by Poltex Folklore Group of Poland at the South Theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Concert by Reza Group of Egypt at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Play entitled, "Abada in the Tempest," at the Artemis Steps a 9:00 p.m.

* Play entitled, "The Mule," at the Gracia Theatre a 8:00 p.m.

* Concert by Laith Hadad at Gracia Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

FILMS

* Performance by opera singer Christophe Barashvitch of Poland at Umm Qais at 8:30 p.m.

* Children's play, "Zina and the Flute," at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

* Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.).

* "The Dead of Jericho, Inspector Morse," at the British Council, 7:00 p.m.

* "The Civil War: War is Hell, 1865," at the American Center, at 5:00 p.m.

JBA, U.S. industrialists to look into joint projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 100 Jordanian businessmen and a group of industrial experts representing 13 American firms will gather at the Marriott Hotel Sunday to discuss investments in joint projects.

The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) and the Jordanian Trade Association (JTA), the joint organisers of the meeting, said in a statement that the delegation from the United States represents the American Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

The statement said that the meeting will be attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh as well as the chairman of the JBA and the JTA, Hamdi Tabbaa and Zeid Fariz.

Representatives of the following American industries are expected to attend Sunday's meeting: industrial design, gas turbines, construction and contracting, road, bridge, dam, airport, tunnel, water project, pharmaceutical, hotel management, garment manufacturing, chemical, and mining and electricity, according to the statement.

The statement also said that OPIC promotes joint projects by offering direct loans and loan guarantees after cautious feasibility studies are conducted for each project.

Normally OPIC provides financing for medium and long-term projects and guarantees a good margin of returns for the investors, according to the statement.

Another JBA statement Tuesday said that Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen are due to hold a joint meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss practical steps for the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian business council and to draft its bylaws.

House passes draft communications law

Amman (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee Tuesday passed the draft communications law of 1995 after some amendments. In A statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, committee rapporteur Mouni Sobar said the committee will prepare a report on the communications draft law next week and will present it to the House for discussion during its current extraordinary session. In another development the Senate Judiciary committee met under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Lawzi to discuss the labour law.

Participants in the seminar discussed such issues as the national plan for promoting baby friendly hospitals, role of gynaecologists and paediatricians in promoting breastfeeding, and the 10 steps to successful breastfeeding.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has so far prepared 37 projects estimated at a cost of \$3.5 billion to be presented to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference in Amman in October and is currently preparing up to another 60 projects on a smaller scale, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

The October international conference will aim to reassess the economies of the countries in the Middle East region, economic cooperation among these countries and prospects for a Middle East-European partnership, the minister said at a seminar held at the International Islamic Studies and Research Centre here.

The MENA summit will seek to attract capital from various parts of the world to be invested in this region, said Mr. Abul Ragheb.

Many countries have expressed their readiness to participate in the conference and to take part in the imple-

Visiting Ukraine minister opens economic talks with officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Constantine Grishenko Tuesday opened talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on economic, political and cultural relations between Ukraine and Jordan.

Acting ministry Deputy Secretary General Ibrahim Naghawi, who led the Jordanian side to the talks, said that issues of common concern had been covered, including the situation in Bosnia where Ukraine has two army units serving with the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

The two sides are in agreement on the urgent need to find an acceptable solution to end the conflict, Mr. Grishenko said.

They also reviewed preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held here in October and the opportunities for investments in the Middle East region in the new era of peace.

A ministry statement said that the two sides will finalise their discussions Wednesday after the Ukraine delegation meets with representatives of the private sector to discuss economic matters.

The Ukrainian official said that his delegation aimed at opening the way for bilateral cooperation in trade and economic fields.

Mr. Grishenko, who arrived with his delegation Monday, had earlier met



Visiting Ukraine Minister of Foreign Affairs Constantine Grishenko Tuesday meets with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour and Vice Speaker Abdul Hadi Majali (Petra photo)

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srour to discuss parliamentary relations between Ukraine and Jordan.

The Ukrainian official said that his delegation aimed at opening the way for bilateral cooperation in trade and economic fields.

Mr. Srour welcomed coop-

eration with the Ukrainian parliament and briefed the visitors on the executive and legislative authorities within the Jordanian parliamentary system.

Australia names new envoy to Kingdom

Aviation experts consider alliances to beat competition

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates representing 10 Arab airlines and American experts in civil aviation Tuesday opened a three-day meeting at the Marriott Hotel to discuss the formation of marketing alliances to offset the negative effects of competition in international aviation markets on Arab airlines.

Secretary General of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) Adil Dajani said that in view of the strong international competitive forces, the time has come for Arab airlines to create their own alliances and to coordinate their efforts through improving passenger services in order to effectively compete internationally.

Arab airlines are well aware of the extent of the competition facing them, Mr. Dajani said. He emphasised that this pressure has now reached unprecedented proportions, making it imperative that Arab airlines act immediately to protect their interests.

Unless swift action is taken on the part of Arab airlines and unless alliances are created among them, they can expect to face a very difficult future and painful setbacks, he warned.

Ms. Wickes is expected to take up her appointment in December 1995, the statement said.



Adil Dajani

Cairo in cooperation with Egypt Air and the British Rolls Royce company in September to deal with the issue of marketing alliances and international competition, according to Mr. Dajani.

Taking part in the Amman meeting are delegates from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Libya.

Established in 1965, the AACO aims to coordinate and promote cooperation in the activities of Arab airline companies.

Government gears up for MENA conference, says Abul Ragheb

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has so far prepared 37 projects estimated at a cost of \$3.5 billion to be presented to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference in Amman in October and is currently preparing up to another 60 projects on a smaller scale, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

The minister also noted that different countries, including those planning to attend the October conference in Amman in October and is currently preparing up to another 60 projects on a smaller scale, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

The bank project has been supported by some countries, but others have called for its postponement, suggesting instead the creation of a financial administration for a two-year period before declaring the establishment of the bank.

The minister predicted that the conference was likely to opt for the creation of a financial administration for an interim two-year period as a first step in the creation of the bank.

As for the economic restructuring programme agreed upon between Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the minister said that the programme which enlists active cooper-



Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Tuesday outlines plans for the Middle East and North Africa summit during a seminar at the Islamic Studies and Research Centre (Petra photo)

ation from the private sector has so far yielded very positive results.

The minister underlined the importance of new Jordanian legislation to create stronger incentives for investments and for dealing with economic challenges.

Disarmament commission for N. Ireland gets cool reviews

BELFAST (AFP) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams was sceptical Tuesday of an Anglo-Irish proposal for an international commission to oversee decommissioning of arms in Northern Ireland, calling it a back-door way of securing unilateral IRA disarmament.

"We don't know what the British mean by that," said the leader of the Irish Republican Army's political wing. "I have to say I don't know."

"I am loathe to get involved in what is at this time a lot of speculation," Mr. Adams said, a day after Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew put the idea after a meeting with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring.

Mr. Adams said the proposal represented no progress because it was built on the British insistence that all-party talks on Northern Ireland peace be contingent on the IRA's laying down its weapons and explosives.

"It's very important to note and underline the fact that Patrick Mayhew yesterday reiterated the British government position that there could be no movement towards all-party talks unless the IRA decommissions some of its weapons," he said.

"If that's the case, that (an international commission) is meant to be a non-starter."

"So, I have to ask them, is this commission a fiction, a device or an idea to bring about a decommissioning of IRA weapons in order to fulfill a British government precondition," Adams said.

The possibility of creating

an international commission to supervise the terms of disarmament in Northern Ireland emerged from three hours of talks in Belfast between Sir Patrick and Mr. Spring.

"We've discussed a number of matters, and a commission, in the context of decommissioning, has been one of these. There are sensible grounds for being hopeful it can be resolved," said Sir Patrick.

"It's one of the options we've been looking at," added Mr. Spring. "We haven't reached conclusions yet so it wouldn't be wise to elaborate but we have to look at all possibilities, all modalities of what is a very complex problem."

It was the first time the concept of international supervision has been aired openly at the same time by two top British and Irish ministers.

Four months ago Mr. Spring said it was possible to envisage a role for international organisations such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) or Scandinavian countries to help disarm IRA's paramilitary groups.

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) published a document proposing a type of commission which would be made up of international military experts as well as representatives from the British and Irish governments. The UUP said at the time that it had submitted its idea to British Prime Minister John Major.

Sinn Fein official Mitchell McLaughlin said earlier, "All ideas, all suggestions for re-

solving the impasse would be seriously looked at by all those seriously interested in finding a solution."

Despite 11 months of ceasefire between the IRA and Protestant paramilitary organisations, both sides have ruled out a unilateral disarmament.

Both London and Dublin, conscious of the impasse, have resolved over the past several months to surmount the problems by working in tandem on proposals that would realise a disarmament.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old British army barracks was one of the most frequent targets of IRA attacks until a ceasefire took effect a year ago was demolished Monday as part of the drive for peace in Northern Ireland.

The red-brick barracks in the Catholic district of Falls Road was the first built by the British in West Belfast when London sent troops to Northern Ireland in August 1969.

It was also the first to be taken out of service when the Irish Republican Army declared a ceasefire on Aug. 31 of last year.

"Hopefully it is the beginning of the total demilitarisation of all army barracks in the six countries" that make up Northern Ireland, said a Sinn Fein leader who witnessed the demolition.

The barracks, located in the Falls Road area but also near the Protestant, pro-British Shankill Road district, will be replaced by a "peace line," or wall between the two neighbourhoods.

Since relative peace came

to Northern Ireland year ago, more than 1,000 British soldiers have left the province, and several military barracks have either been demolished or decommissioned. A total of 17,500 British troops remain.

In a separate development, a Protestant hall in County Armagh was extensively damaged in an arson attack early Tuesday, the latest in a spate of arson attacks on more than a dozen so-called Orange halls this month, police said.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said stones were removed from the roof of the building at Mountnorris and flammable liquid was poured inside and set alight. The roof and interior of the hall were badly damaged.

The Orange Order has about 100,000 members, making it the biggest single Protestant organisation in the British province where it is seen as an embodiment of the loyalist community's determination to hold on to its traditional freedoms and privileges.

Elsewhere, a 54-year-old man and his two sons in their 20s were saved by smoke alarms when petrol bombs were thrown into their home, starting a blaze in the living room.

They were asleep in the house at Kilbeg Close, Antrim, when the pre-dawn attack was launched. The alarm woke them and they found the living room curtains, carpet and an armchair ablaze.

The family put out the blaze before the fire brigade arrived.

The barracks, located in the Falls Road area but also near the Protestant, pro-British Shankill Road district, will be replaced by a "peace line," or wall between the two neighbourhoods.

Since relative peace came

Mexico rebels open 5th round of peace talks on wrong foot

SAN ANDRES LARRAIN-ZAR, Mexico (AFP) — Government and rebel representative began their fifth round of peace talks blaming each other for the lack of progress in the negotiations.

The government accused the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) late Monday of delaying a decision on the rules and procedures for the talks, which were first brought up three months ago.

An official statement also rejected a new Zapatista proposal to set up some sort of buffer zone between government and rebel forces in Chiapas by creating a special corridor in the region where guerrilla forces would withdraw.

The statement charged the rebels with using this issue in the talks as a delaying tactic and said the rebels were "lacking in sincerity... to see concrete results" in the talks.

The Zapatistas, in turn, issued a statement early Tuesday calling the charges "government lies," adding that their proposals were in line with negotiating principles.

The Zapatistas got some backing to their demand that the negotiations address social and political issues on a national scale, when a representative of a religious mediating panel said that the problems in Chiapas had repercussions around the country.

However, a Zapatista leader at the talks identified only as Comandante David, was critical of the government and warned that "we will continue fighting with our



A Chapas peasant girl stands near Mexican soldiers as she forms with other residents a peace cordon around the meeting place where the Mexican government and the Zapatista rebels resumed their negotiations (AFP photo)

weapons and our hands" for justice, democracy and liberty.

The Zapatista rebels first rose up against the government Jan. 1, 1994 demanding better economic and social conditions for the state's impoverished ethnic-Maya majority.

The rebels later demanded democratic political reform on the state and national levels.

In April, the government and the EZLN, led by masked commander Subcomandante Marcos, agreed to make this small Chiapas town the headquarters of their dialogue and set out to tackle the issues.

All previous negotiating sessions broke off without agreement.

African leaders discuss food shortage

KAMPALA (R) — Six African leaders met in Uganda's capital Kampala Tuesday to work out a plan to feed the millions of hungry people in the world's poorest continent.

It will be a tall order. Wars, political instability and poor weather have wrecked crops across Africa, according to reports presented to the delegates.

Up to 200 million of Africa's 700 million people are faced with starvation, conference documents said. Between 60 and 70 per cent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa is malnourished.

The presidents of Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Uganda met behind closed doors with delegations from at least six other countries to examine proposals on how to ensure Africa's poor at least have enough to eat.

African scientists met at the weekend to work out a

strategy on the problem to present to the heads of state. They are expected to agree Tuesday on a strategy on food security and improving nutrition for the next 10 years, organisers said.

In January this year, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in a report that although food supplies in Africa had improved, many areas devastated by drought and war still relied on foreign handouts.

FAO said 28 African countries will require food aid of up to 2.3 million tonnes in 1995 — 20 per cent below last year's total thanks to improved harvests.

But the situation in Burundi and Rwanda, torn by ethnic violence and insecurity, remains critical.

Dry weather delayed plantings in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe and western parts of South Africa's grain-growing belt, the FAO added.

French party's secret cash 'is legal'

MILAN (R) — Prosecutors questioned former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Tuesday in a probe of corruption allegations against ex-magistrate Antonio Di Pietro, a folk hero in Italy for his exposure of graft.

Judicial sources said Mr. Berlusconi was questioned as a witness at a police station at Chiari, near the northern town of Brescia, where the investigation into Judge Di Pietro is based.

During his stormy seven months in office last year, Mr. Berlusconi clashed repeatedly with Milan's pool of "clean hands" magistrates to

which Judge Di Pietro belonged, accusing its members of using their powers to try to ruin him politically.

The media magnate hinted in a television programme, "Tempo Reale," in April that Judge Di Pietro had disagreed with a pool decision last November to investigate him for alleged complicity in corruption in his Fininvest business empire.

A criminal hearing in September will decide whether Mr. Berlusconi should stand trial.

Judge Di Pietro, in an ironic change of roles, has been forced to defend himself from

Taiwan, China fire practice missiles

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan and China staged rival military exercises in the East China Sea Tuesday, but Taipei called for a ceasefire in verbal sparring and a resumption of cross-strait talks.

The Taiwanese Navy began firing artillery shells some 20 nautical miles off the northeastern coastal village of Suao in what Central Daily News reported.

The Taiwanese drill is scheduled to end Friday, the same day as China's week-long exercises with surface missiles nearby.

But military officials here asserted the drill had nothing to do with China's exercises, while the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party called on China to resume cross-strait talks and stop its daily verbal attacks on Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Taiwan's manoeuvres are a routine exercise and have nothing to do with China's ongoing missile drill near Taiwan's Pengciayu Island.

The source, however, declined to give the number and type of the ships and weapons used, and the Defence Ministry and the navy headquarters were reluctant to confirm the reports.

On Tuesday Mr. Lee defended his moves to seek international recognition of Taiwan saying the island "cannot survive" otherwise.

He added tht as head of state, "even though I am criticised and sneered by others, I must still maintain a strong faith. If the state leader does not have faith, how can he lead others..." Taiwan now maintains off-

cial ties with only 30 nations, mostly Latin American and small Pacific island nations.

KMT spokesman Hanlon Chien urged China to halt its daily attack on Mr. Lee, saying charges in the official Communist press that the president sought Taiwanese independence were untrue.

The Chinese Communists should realise the facts of the split and separate rules by different governments of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, and reopen the negotiation channel in order to maintain friendly cross-interactions," Mr. Chien said.

Government spokesman Jason Hu also told the Central News Agency, "the promotion of pragmatic diplomacy by the government is not equivalent to promoting Taiwan's independence.

"It helps the continued survival of the country and will benefit future reunification of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait," he added.

On Monday and Sunday

China said Mr. Lee's "private" overseas trips between February 1994 and June 1995 were actually moves to win international recognition for an independent Taiwan.

Beijing has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since the KMT fled there after their defeat on the mainland at the end of the 1949 Chinese Civil War, while the KMT in Taipei still consider themselves the legitimate government of all China.

Mr. Lee's U.S. trip in June especially irked Beijing, which retaliated by suspending high-level, semi-official talks with Taiwan and then announced it would be conducting its missile drill just north of the island.

Great Indian rope trick performed after 600 years

NEW DELHI (R) — A jostling crowd pressed forward expectantly as a dark, bearded man clad in black silk and a bone necklace and flanked by blazing logs stuffed a thick rope into a basket to the rhythm of beating drums.

The great Indian rope trick, last executed successfully in the 14th century according to the organisers, was about to be performed.

He said Chinese authorities have told the United States "these are normal military exercises that always take place."

As the restless audience swatted at insects under the muggy monsoon night sky, 24-year-old Ishamuddin stroked the 10-ft (3-metre) long rope and commanded it to rise.

His apprentices muttered unintelligible chants, the drum beats quickened. The rope swayed, writhed upwards, and stood six feet (1.8 metres) in the air, bending over at the top.

Ishamuddin placed his seven-year-old brother on the vertical portion. The small boy clambered up to the top, balanced himself for a few

seconds and slid back down.

As the crowd clapped hesitantly, Ishamuddin relaxed and the rope slithered back into the basket.

"Fantastic," breathed a well-dressed middle-aged woman.

Ishamuddin was more positive. "There is nothing such as magic," he said. "It's a straightforward, simple trick. The rope gets spoilt by rainwater. It would have been much better if it hadn't rained."

As sceptics examined the muddy earth and the inert rope, some spectators said they were disappointed.

"Necessity is the mother of invention and I needed the money to better my family's condition," said Ishamuddin, who comes from a family of magicians. "I want many brothers and sisters to be able to take care of us."

"The rope wasn't long enough," said a 27-year-old woman airline sales executive. "The great Indian rope trick should have the rope disappearing in the sky."

Others were sceptical. "I saw the guy behind him pulling at something as the rope rose," a 20-year-old British tourist said. "There must have been an underground tunnel or something. You could see him moving his

hands."

"The rope was too thick," an Indian journalist complained. "It could have motorised or magnetised."

Ishamuddin said he decided to do the rope trick after he found the British Magic Circle had offered £25,000 (\$40,000) and an American Association of Magicians \$10,000 to anyone who could successfully perform the ancient feat.

Ishamuddin said he was happy to be the first to perform the trick in 600 years. "But I am not quite satisfied — it would have been better if it had not rained," he added.

Magicians say there are three variations on the rope trick — basket to rope as Ishamuddin performed it, hand to rope without a basket, and rope to rope, in which the performer does not touch the rope.

Ishamuddin said he first heard about the rope trick from his grandfather. "Some books say it is a hallucination."

"I want to perform it fully for the general public in September with all its variations," Ishamuddin said. "Then I can demand the prize."

Brando film halted by cash wrangle

BALLYCOTTON, Ireland (AFP) — Work has stopped in this fishing village on a film starring Marlon Brando and Johnny Depp — costing £16 million (\$24 million) — because of cash problems, its producers said Monday. Brando's involvement in *Diving Rapture*, also starring Debra Winger and John Hurt, moved him to contemplate taking up Irish citizenship. His great-grandfather was born in Dublin. The film, described as a black comedy about a priest (played by Brando) who believes in miracles, began shooting in this village in southwest Ireland earlier this month but ran into financial difficulties last week. The director, Thom Eberhardt, had earlier managed to overcome the refusal of the local bishop to permit filming at two churches in his diocese, by choosing another location. The film's producers said in a statement in Dublin Monday that "in spite of continuing assurances of financial backing from our backer, the funds have not been forthcoming."

Bronze bust of Simpson found near highway

CLEVELAND (R) — A bronze bust of O.J. Simpson stolen from the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, will be returned Tuesday, officials said. The life-size bust was stolen Sunday, apparently by a Hall of Fame visitor, and was recovered Monday by two highway maintenance workers at the bottom of a highway embankment, Ohio Department of Transportation worker Rodney Rosado, quoting himself on local television news, said he told co-worker Mark Freedman.

"Oh my gosh, you found O.J.," Canton police officers drove to Cleveland to pick up the bust and will return it to the Hall of Fame Tuesday. Canton police detective Richard Baughman said the bronze bust did not yield any fingerprints, and did not appear to be damaged. Mr. Baughman said, "Canton police have circulated a composite drawing of a suspect, described as a white male with blonde, spiked hair. He apparently carried the trophy through an emergency exit, police said. Simpson, on trial for double-murder in Los Angeles, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1985 after a stellar career as a running back with the Buffalo Bills. Simpson's jersey, helmet, shoes and other memorabilia were still on display behind glass.

World News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995, 5



Chechen people shake their fists and shout slogans demanding the independence of Chechnya during a rally in Grozny. Negotiators attempting to resolve the seven-month-old conflict.

in Chechnya emerged from "very productive" talks claiming they were on the verge of signing a political accord (AFP photo)

Kashmir kidnappers may have shifted hostages

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Snow and rain may have forced Muslim rebels holding five Western tourists to abandon the upper reaches of the Himalayas and search operations have begun in southern Kashmir, police said Tuesday.

A police officer in the mountain resort of Pahalgam, where the two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian were kidnapped this month, told AFP that Indian troops had extended

their search to the southern portion of the state. "A search team came to know from local residents that they (the kidnappers and the five hostages) were spotted a few days ago above the village of Tral," sub-inspector Bashir Ahmad said.

"Tral is some 60 kilometres (37 miles) south of the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar while Pahalgam is situated 100 kilometres (62 miles) east of Srinagar in the rugged Kashmir Himalayas."

Mr. Ahmad and other police officers said the kidnappers, members of the Muslim separatist group Al Faran, may have moved the

hostages after fresh snowfall, heavy rain and a steep drop in temperature in the mountains of Pahalgam.

Until now, troops had concentrated their search for the five tourists to the Pahalgam area.

A photograph of the captives released by the militants nearly two weeks ago showed the hostages against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped while trekking near Pahalgam on July 4. German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were abducted in separate incidents four days later.

The Indian government Monday ruled out releasing imprisoned Muslim militants to win the freedom of the five tourists.

"There is no question of releasing any militant (in exchange for the abducted tourists)," Home Secretary K. Padmanabhaiah said in the Indian government's first categorical rejection of a militant-for-hostage swap.

Speaking in New Delhi, the home secretary also said a claim by Al Faran that two hostages had been injured in a gun battle with Indian troops last week was a fabrication.

Indian troops patrol the deserted town of Pahalgam where Kashmiri Muslim militants abducted five Western tourists over three weeks ago. The separatists have threatened to

kill the captive if the Indian authorities do not release 21 top Muslim separatists from prison (AFP photo)

Rao: Congress must preach reforms to win polls

SURAJKUND, India (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao kicked off major brainstorming meeting of his Congress Party Tuesday urging senior leaders to dispel popular fears that his economic reforms were anti-poor.

Mr. Rao said at the start of a six-day meeting of party leaders and workers that while most opposition parties had endorsed his economic liberalisation programme, many Congress members had failed to accept or even understand its worth.

"If you are not convinced about our economic policy it's useless to expect you to dispel the confusion in the voters' minds," he told more than 10,000 supporters at Surajkund, site of an ancient pond near Delhi dedicated to the Hindu sun god.

The meeting, called "the trainers' training camp," was the first in a series of nationwide conclaves Mr. Rao proposes to hold by December.

Elections are due in June but Mr. Rao says they may be brought forward by two or three months to avoid the searing summer heat.

"Elections are not very far off. Are we ready for them?" he asked.

The ruling party's stress on economic reforms was a major contrast to the main opposition Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which last week announced a campaign targeting the government's "soft" policy on Kashmir and its alleged appeasement of Indian Muslims.

India's third major contender for power next year is an alliance of leftists and low-caste Hindu groups who have dispelled the confusion in the voters' minds," he told more than 10,000 supporters at Surajkund, site of an ancient pond near Delhi dedicated to the Hindu sun god.

The meeting, called "the trainers' training camp," was

mic and political benefits for the poor.

Mr. Rao said that in order for Congress to exploit its pioneering role in reforms, it would have to overcome the inability of its workers to understand what they stood for.

"What does it mean to you if we say the Congress stands for a balanced fiscal-budget by cutting down on wasteful expenditure?" he asked.

"What is fiscal balance? What do we mean when we say our rate of savings has stagnated? Why do we use difficult words?" he went on.

Many of Mr. Rao's critics within the Congress have warned him against excessive reliance on reforms, urging him instead to frame more populist policies to woo voters.

Mr. Rao said the reforms were intended to alleviate poverty.

"This vital message is getting lost, partly by our own inadequacies and partly by a misleading opposition campaign."

"By inviting private investments in money-buzzing sectors like power and oil production we are going to be able to save vast amounts of money to divert them into housing and other social sectors," he said.

"Of the 900 million people, 60 to 70 million are at the top of the economic pyramid. But there are between 200 to 300 million burgeoning middle classes who have understood the reforms. Today they have a definite stake in the reforms."

"Your task is to convince the crucial 600 to 550 million at the bottom of the ladder that our policies aim to improve their living conditions," Mr. Rao told the meeting.

He said the reforms were intended to alleviate poverty.

U.S. lawmaker: Tobacco study targeted 3rd graders

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tobacco giant Philip Morris tracked Virginia third-graders as potential future customers and gave electric shocks to college students to see if the resulting anxiety would make them smoke more, a congressman charges.

Research documents also show the world's largest tobacco company found hungry smokers crave nicotine more than food, and considered the chemical addictive a decade before the Surgeon General did, Rep. Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, said.

Mr. Waxman, who uncovered the records during a congressional investigation, submitted the documents for publication Tuesday in the congressional record. He read aloud portions of the dozens of records on the House floor.

"These documents make it crystal clear that we need regulation of tobacco to protect our children from becoming addicted to a life-threatening drug," said Mr. Waxman, ranking Democrat

on the Health Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee. "I hope they will dissuade members of this body (Congress) from any legislative effort to block that regulation."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the White House are discussing ways to curb childhood smoking, including banning cigarette vending machines and advertising attractive to children. Tobacco-state lawmakers are mobilising to block such regulation, but did not immediately react to Waxman's statements.

Philip Morris officials refused to discuss Waxman's charges, saying they hadn't seen the documents. But Philip Morris has always said that it studied why people smoke," the company said in a statement. "Nicotine, which is an important component of the taste and flavour of cigarettes, is believed to be one of many reasons."

According to documents Mr. Waxman cited:

— Philip Morris scientists began a study on hyperactive children as "prospective smokers" by tracking third-graders in Chesterfield County, Virginia, in 1974. The goal was to see if they later smoked as teenagers as a way to calm down without prescription medication.

Researchers wrote that they hoped ultimately to track 60,000 elementary school children, and in 1977 enlisted pediatricians who treated hyperactive children. Company scientists wrote that "it would be good to know that smoking is an advantage to at least one subgroup of the population," Mr. Waxman read.

The study ended in 1978 when school officials declared access to students' school and medical records violated their privacy, the company records said.

— A series of studies titled "shock I-V" administered electric shocks to college students, beginning in 1969, to see if student smoking increased under stressful conditions. The study ended in 1972 because "fear of shock

is scaring away some of our more valuable subjects," researchers wrote.

In 1977, the company wrote that it had reached an agreement with a university hospital to inject nicotine into people to measure their reactions, particularly brain waves. It was unclear whether those studies actually took place.

In 1976, college students were given low-nicotinic cigarettes to see whether they smoked differently, by inhaling more deeply and holding the smoke longer, to compensate for the lack of nicotine.

Philip Morris chief William Campbell testified before Congress last year that tobacco is not addictive.

But Mr. Waxman said the documents prove the company knew that nicotine is addictive a decade before the Surgeon General made that declaration. He read a 1969 company report for Philip Morris' board of directors that concluded smokers need the "pharmacological effect" of tobacco.

Chechen peace talks suspended

Russian soldier killed in fierce central Grozny fighting

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Fierce fighting broke out in the centre of the Chechen capital Tuesday, minutes after the suspension of peace talks, leaving at least one Russian soldier dead.

Gunmen posted in at least three places opened up automatic weapons fire against a Russian position near the presidential palace, triggering a barrage of Russian automatic and artillery fire.

Earlier in the day, Russian and Chechen negotiators suspended peace talks for three days to hold separate consultations, but the top Russian delegate said a military accord was due to be signed at the weekend.

Khozhakmed Yerikhov, deputy head of the Chechen separatist delegation, said the break was agreed because the Chechens were given a final version of the military accord drawn up by the Russians and "there are some questions which were not previously addressed."

ITAR-TASS had reported that two Russian soldiers also were killed in overnight attacks by Chechen separatists in Grozny.

Chечен military commander Aslan Maskhadov blamed the attacks on "isolated fighters" and said his forces were "ready to join

Russian troops in neutralising the lone fighters."

Peace talks have run since the end of June to halt the war in which between 15,000 and 30,000 people have died, according to various estimates. Russian troops stormed into Chechnya on Dec. 11 to quell a three-year secessionist movement.

The suspension of peace talks followed Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's criticism of the negotiators as "hair-splitters" who had not accomplished anything in five weeks of talks.

Mr. Dudayev's televised remarks Saturday night soured the atmosphere at the talks, with each side accusing the other of stalling an agreement at the negotiations in Grozny.

The talks will resume Saturday after the sides consult with their respective leaders, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Russian delegation chief Vacheslav Mikhailev said Russian and Chechen experts will continue working on draft documents during the break.

"The talks will continue. There is a certainty that we will make real progress and achieve the final agreement," Mr. Mikhailev told ITAR-TASS before departing for Moscow.

President Boris Yeltsin,

meanwhile, discussed the talks during Tuesday's meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The two met at a health complex near Moscow where Mr. Yeltsin is recuperating from what aides said was heart trouble.

Sergei Filatov, Mr. Yeltsin's chief of staff, told the Interfax News Agency that the halt in the negotiations was not expected to lead to an upgrade in fighting.

After initial progress at negotiations on military and other issues, the sides stalled for weeks over the question of Chechnya's future political status.

The Chechen separatists, who declared independence in 1991, want that independence recognised by Moscow. The Kremlin insists the republic remain part of Russia, but is reportedly willing to allow Chechnya to call itself independent and suggests the question wait until after elections in the fall.

Mr. Mikhailev insisted Monday that the debate was not over Chechnya's overall status but the details of its deal with the rebels.

In the Hague, a foreign advisor to the Chechens said Tuesday Mr. Dudayev remains hopeful about peace talks with Russia, but will carry on his fight in Russia proper if that is what is

needed to secure independence.

International lawyer Michael Van Walt, who heads the Hague-based Unrepresented Nations and People Organisation (UNPO), met Mr. Dudayev in his Chechen mountain hide-out last week.

He quoted Mr. Dudayev as saying that the Chechens are prepared to fight — this time in Russia — if peace talks fail.

"What he said is that if there is going to be more fighting, which he doesn't want, then he doesn't want more destruction in Chechnya and it's going to have to be on Russian soil.

"That means, I suppose, guerrilla attack tactics in cities or in Russian centres and installations," Mr. Van Walt told Reuters in an interview.

In June, a breakaway Chechen group attacked Budennovsk in southern Russia seizing hundreds of hostages. The captives were released after five days when Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin brokered a deal with the rebels. Mr. Dudayev then condemned the assault, in which 121 people were killed.

"(He) (Dudayev) is saying: 'Look our position is fairly tough. We are prepared to fight,'" Mr. Van Walt said.

Pakistan floods claim 50 more lives

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Some 50 people were reported dead Tuesday as monsoon floods continued to ravage many parts of Pakistan, officials and rescue workers said.

Four deaths in a house collapse were also reported from Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

Reports said 46 people were killed in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) as mud-and-stone houses collapsed under torrential rains and gushing hill torrents lashed remote villages.

Mingora city in the north was flooded by the swollen Swat River, destroying or

damaging hundreds of houses and shops, local officials said, adding that a main bridge in the area had also collapsed.

Four deaths in a house collapse were also reported from Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

In southern Sindh province, 20 bodies were recovered from the flood waters Tuesday, following widespread devastation at the weekend when about 300 people were feared dead as hundreds of villages were washed away.

Gonzalez mulls resignation as Spanish leader

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has announced he may not stand for the top job at the next elections, expected in early 1996.

Mr. Gonzalez, who has led Spain since 1982, told union leaders: "From time to time it is necessary to change the electoral lists."

He had already raised the question of his successor within the Socialist Party (PSOE) at the beginning of July.

And over the last few weeks he has told his closest colleagues he would not run again, according to the generally well informed daily newspaper *El País*.

Mr. Gonzalez's meeting with union leaders came amid growing political tensions after a string of scandals.

Reaction from party col-

leagues was mixed Tuesday. Txiki Benegas, one of the PSOE's senior figures, declared: "Felipe is our best man, and should stand."

But former Foreign Minister Fernando Moran said: "After the latest events, he can no longer stand."

Joaquin Leguina, former Madrid leader, said: "I am sure that personally, he does not much want to stay in power."

Party secretary Cipriano Ciscar confirmed that the PSOE would decide on a successor — or not, as the case may be — in September, at an extraordinary meeting of the special committee. The main aim would be to avoid a split at the heart of the party.

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Mr. Gonzalez's meeting with union leaders came amid growing political tensions after a string of scandals.

The party's parliamentary spokesman Joaquin Almudea: "It is not sure that we

will have the same candidate," at the next elections.

He cited two leading candidates to succeed the four-time general election winner (1982, 1986, 1989 and 1993): Foreign Minister Javier Solana, the only minister to have been in all Socialist cabinets since 1982, and Industry Minister Jose Borrell.

Political analysts said Mr. Solana, the premier's most loyal ally, would leave Mr. Gonzalez with the real power — in the form of the post of general party secretary. Mr. Borrell however, is seen as more independent.

The debate has taken on a new dimension since allegations Thursday from former Basque Socialist leader Ricardo Damborena. He accused Mr. Gonzalez of creating GAL death squads. Set

up to combat militant Basque separatists, its members stand accused of at least 24 murders.

His allegations came as a political bombshell in Spain and provoked a fierce denial from the prime minister before the Spanish parliament.

At the end of June, Mr. Gonzalez had to drop his deputy prime minister, Narciso Serra, and his defence minister, Julian Garcia Vargas, both of whom were implicated in an illegal phone-tapping scandal.

And since mid-July he has no longer been able to count on the unconditional support of the Catalan Party. Convergencia i Unio. The CiU distanced itself from the Socialists "so as not to go

Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Effort for common good

IN HIS APPRAISAL of the one year that passed since the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25, 1994, the Foreign Minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti noted that while the government of Jordan was committed to the peace treaty with Israel and all the agreements that resulted from it, all parties to the peace process should appreciate that "decades of belligerence" require a long time to be erased.

This is how the joint mission for the relief of Bosnia yesterday, led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Minister of the Environment Yossi Sarid, should be seen: A step in the direction of changing perceptions, of creating an atmosphere of cooperation to replace decades of confrontation.

Jews and Muslims have lived for centuries in harmony and peace in the Middle East, North Africa, Spain, Turkey and Bosnia itself. They only clashed over Palestine that both Palestinian Arabs and Jews claim to be their homeland. Now Arabs and Israelis, especially Palestinians and Israelis, are edging towards a historical reconciliation by which the two seem to agree that the best solution is to share the land sacred to both. "We must admit that Israelis and Jews all over the world have shown interest in the fate of Bosnian Muslims since the start of the conflict three years ago. Like Jordan, Israel received refugees and wounded people from Bosnia. And like Jordan the Israelis have been sending medical and relief supplies to the beleaguered country. Yesterday's joint mission was both a humanitarian effort to aid the Bosnians and a show of solidarity for a common cause: Human dignity everywhere."

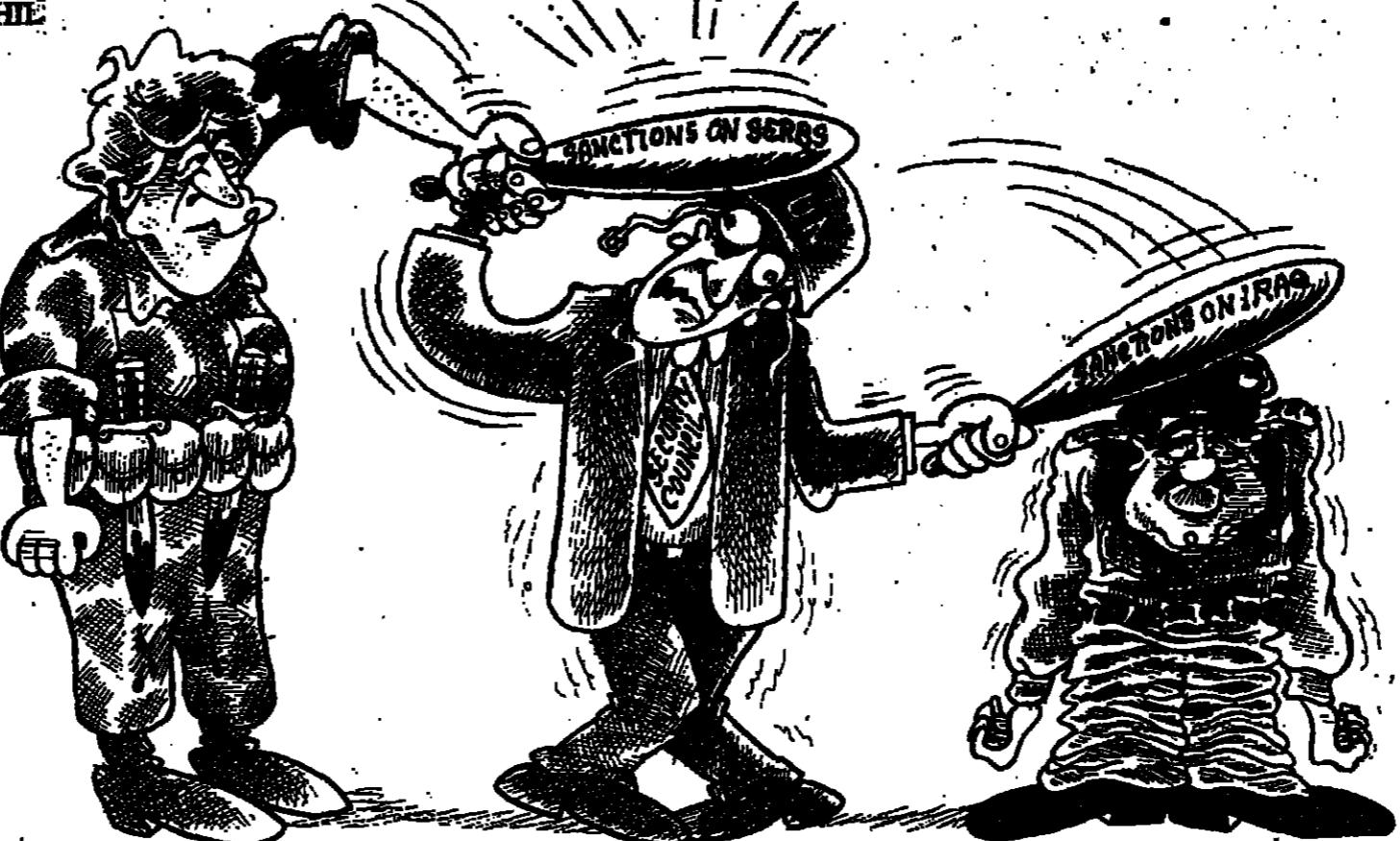
The joint effort comes one day after a suicide bomber attacked a bus in Tel Aviv and killed six Israelis and injured 33. That attack was condemned by both the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships in the strongest possible terms. His Majesty King Hussein lashed at those who lure young people into committing such atrocious acts and stressed that Islam did not condone such acts. The day before, the King in a call to Jordan Television during a campaign to raise funds for Bosnia, described the situation there as "disastrous." The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin called to congratulate and commend Jordanians for the effort. These joint stands can only strengthen peace and change negative images and perceptions. What is needed are gestures of goodwill by the Israelis towards the Syrians, the Lebanese, and the Palestinians and a continuation of the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation with the Jordanians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE BUS explosion near Tel Aviv Monday, which coincided with a critical stage in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over the second phase of the Oslo agreement, could be used as a pretext by the Israelis to delay their talks with the Palestine National Authority (PNA), said Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour. It is as if the Israeli government is awaiting such pretexts to delay as long as possible the implementation of the agreement because it is not keen on making peace with the Arabs by giving their land back to them, said the writer. Indeed, the Israeli leaders, who have ensured the security of the Jewish state militarily thanks to continuous American aid, are expecting from the PNA to guarantee the safety and the security of each and every Israeli citizen at a time when it continues to occupy Arab lands, continued the writer.

THANKING THE United States for writing off Jordan's official debts to Washington, a writer in Al Ra'i said that such move reflects the good ties between the two countries. But it must be noted that the accumulating debts on Jordan resulted from the Kingdom's shouldering of heavy economic, political and strategic burdens over the past four decades of confrontation with the Jewish state, which continues to enjoy Washington's generosity and receives all kinds of aid, said Mahmud Rimawi. The writer said that while the United States has aimed at helping Jordan to pursue the process of making peace with the Jewish state, it ought to be reminded that the Kingdom is still burdened with the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who await their return to their homeland but are not able to do so due to Israel's adamant position in this regard.

M. KAHLIE



Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

U.S. public supports action in Bosnia

THE AMERICAN public favours strong action to defend Bosnian Muslims from Serbian aggression, but requires political leadership to better define available policy options. These were some of the findings of a poll released on July 21 by the American Task Force for Bosnia (ATFB).

The poll, conducted by the John Zogby Group of New York, interviewed 900 registered voters across the United States, and had a margin of error of 3.3 per cent.

Almost two thirds of the respondents (65.1 per cent) indicated that they are closely following events in Bosnia, and by a 11-point margin their sympathies are with the Bosnian Muslims over the Serbs.

In fact, there is deep concern over the fate of the beleaguered Bosnian Muslim community. Almost 60 per cent identified the Serbian practice of "ethnic cleansing" as "similar to the treatment of Jews by the Nazis during World War II" — and more than 78 per cent of those who took that position said that they "believe that the U.S. government has a responsibility to stop another Holocaust" in Bosnia.

In light of these attitudes, it is not surprising that, by a 2 to 1 margin (52 per cent to 26 per cent), the voters polled feel that the U.S. should "play a more active role in insuring that U.N. safe areas are really safe for Bosnian civilians. At the same time 52.3 per cent support the use of force to protect these safe areas, and only 24 per cent oppose that idea.

Other results from the ATFB poll are less clear. While a slight majority do not support U.S. air strikes against the Serbs (33.2 per cent to 35.3 per cent), a majority do support U.S. congressional efforts to lift the arms embargo in place against the Bosnian government (37 per cent to 24 per cent). In both instances, those who have no opinion or are undecided from the largest bloc of those polled.

What emerges from the ATFB-Zogby Group poll is that U.S. public opinion has been deeply affected by dirty media coverage of Serbian atrocities. Amer-

If anything this failure to push an option and to pro-

vide leadership and build support for a decisive response to the Bosnian crisis has been the main criticism of the Clinton administration's approach to Bosnia.

Noting this, former Carter State Department spokesperson Hodding Carter said, "The problem is inconsistency. This is a situation where the public is up for grabs but it requires you to sustain a steady conversation about foreign policy, even though you may be taking considerable heat. But Clinton gets spooked by events or by polls results, and pulls the plug on his own policy."

Echoing this view, Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton (former Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee), said: "The president should have come to us and said what are we committed to do and how we intend to do it. He should do more to prepare Congress and the American people."

Now that the tables have turned and President Clinton is under attack by Senator Robert Dole (R-KS) who is also the frontunning Republican presidential contender, the same pattern is emerging again.

In the face of public outrage over repeated Serbian outrages, Mr. Dole is proposing much the same policy once proposed by candidate Clinton. With some bi-partisan support in both the Senate and House, including candidate Clinton's earliest major support — Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT). Mr. Dole is proposing a unilateral U.S. lifting of the arms embargo and simply a way to drive the United Nations out of Bosnia, which would be devastating for all the refugees that we've seen there in recent days. It would also drive the United States in. We would probably have to have a substantial ground component to live up to the moral responsibility we would take on if we lifted the arms embargo."

And painting an even more dire scenario, Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton stated: "If we start supplying the Serbs, almost certainly ... You're going to have a wide war, we're going to be on the ground, the British and French are out, and you're going to have enormous consequences flow from this decision to lift the arms embargo."

And so the pattern of talking tough and doing little continues, and in its wake the American public is deeply troubled by the suffering of the Bosnians, angered by the brutality of the Serbs, but lacking a clear understanding of which response would best address the crisis and lead

to its eventual solution.

This may change in the weeks to come. If President Clinton is able to convince the allies to strike hard at Serbian positions, or if Senator Dole decides to move his initiative to a vote, the pattern may be broken.

But the doomsayers are partially right on one point. There will be consequences from such actions, and the American public will have to be prepared not only for those consequences but also for the necessary responses.

It will require a sustained educational campaign and decisive leadership. But as the ATFB-Zogby group poll shows, the public can be won over to support such action.

In fact the ATFB, which has been working to strengthen U.S. policy on Bosnia for more than three years, is a microcosm of the nation at large. Directed by Khalid Saffouri, the ATFB is an umbrella organisation for a large number of groups which are committed to changing U.S. policy to protect the Bosnian people from Serb aggression, and include Arab American, Jewish, Muslim, Christian and secular non-denominational human rights organisations.

The Task Force meetings are an impressive example of how even organisations which have worked at cross-purposes in the past are able to band together to prevent what they all see as a tragic abandonment of moral responsibility on the part of the West. For while the ATFB is active primarily in the United States, Mr. Saffouri and other leaders periodically attend conferences of leaders of similar organisations in Europe to discuss the possibility of a unified strategy on certain points.

As the ATFB has shown, the commitment to basic human rights in this country is strong enough to override religious and ideological boundaries. The ATFB, and the American public generally, is hoping that their political leadership will override partisan political boundaries to articulate and undertake a strong stance against Serbian aggression and brutality in Bosnia.

The most significant revelation, however, was that transnationalism has reached the Middle East. Until recently, the rule all over the world was that society took care of itself within the nation state, and international relations were strictly the prerogative of governments. The media revolution has added a new element to the formula that may have changed it irreversibly. The telethon was a clear manifestation that good work, undertaken on the popular level, can produce good results across political borders, even without direct government intervention.

The idea here is not to preach the marginalisation of governments, but to draw the conclusion that people need not sit idly, waiting for their government to do everything. The prospects for good work that this opens up are infinite. One suggestion that may contribute to the success of any future campaign is to contact major corporations and agencies that have vested interests in this country, or the pressure groups that

influence the economic sectors in which they operate, and seek their contribution to the effort. All that would be required is the will and a bit of organisation. Three cheers for Jordan Television for showing that this can be done.

It occurred to me
By Ali Kassay

Three cheers for JTV

I tend, as a rule, to have a Marxist view of television (Groucho Marx, not the other one) that it is an important educational instrument — when I see what programmes are on, I switch it off and read a book. This, added to the cynicism that life in the Third World cultivates in man, led me to be sceptical about the telethon organised by Jordan Television for the aid of war victims in Bosnia. Last Friday, however, I stood corrected, and happy to be so.

Firstly, praise goes to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Not only did they inspire the idea, they also gave another fine example of leading from the front. As for the people of Jordan, their generosity has never been in question. Still, the money raised, considerable in absolute terms, was phenomenal in that it exceeded one dinar per capita. This was very magnanimous, coming as it did from a society in which the number of families that live below the poverty line rises steadily with no foreseeable prospect of it coming down again.

More striking, however, was the success of the undertaking as an organisational effort. The norm in our society is to do nothing and complain that others are not doing enough. Hence, for an organisation that is not directly involved in charity to succeed in mobilising our society into a constructive communal effort was an achievement worthy of the highest praise.

The telethon was also just as significant in what it revealed, as in the fact that it happened. For one thing, it was very refreshing to see donations coming from other countries, notably from Israel. It is a major step forward that we and our neighbours to the west have progressed from the point where we needed international missions of good will to separate us from each other's throat, to a state of affairs where we as people can act together in an effort to alleviate the suffering of a third party, living in a different continent. One should commend Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for highlighting this through his initiative.

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Would China really attack? Taiwan wonders

By James Kyne

Reuter

TAIPEI — Taiwan's 64 million dollar question — Would China ever really attack? — Is again the subject of impassioned debate.

The son of this island's late leader Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek thinks it is a definite possibility, but others see the Chinese use of military force as extremely unlikely.

The debate intensified on Sunday as Taiwan said China has begun missile tests in the sea just 85 miles north of this island, an act of sabre-rattling which has caused panic on Taiwan's stock market.

"I do not agree with people in Taiwan who say that

China would not attack Taiwan," Chiang Wego, the son of Chiang Kai-Shek and himself a retired general, told Reuters.

"To say China would not attack is a kind of guess or hope. It is wishful thinking," said Mr. Chiang, 79, who is a senior advisor to President Lee Teng-Hui and president of Taiwan's Society for Strategic Studies.

"There are others who say that China does not dare to attack," Mr. Chiang said. "This is like saying 'come on, come on fight.' It is the kind of thing that children say in the playground."

Chiang Kai-Shek fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war in China to Mao Tse-Tung's communist

forces. For the rest of his life, the austere generalissimo vowed to recover the mainland but never realised his aim.

In 1991, President Lee officially abolished a plan to retake China and has since pressed Beijing on numerous occasions to also drop its threat of force against Taiwan.

But China has not reciprocated. Only last week Beijing made clear that it would use force if Taiwan declared a formal independence from China or if it was invaded by a foreign power.

Although it functions as an independent country, both Taipei and Beijing agree that Taiwan is a part of China which will one day

attack. They have too much to lose. An invasion would destroy business confidence in southern China overnight," said Lee Wen-Lin, a businessman.

Some who braved torrential rain to take part in a protest rally yesterday against missile tests in Taipei on Sunday were defiant.

"We're hoping that they won't invade, but if they do... let's fight. We're ready," said one housewife.

Taiwan's military, although not as large or well-equipped as its rival, is still a force capable of mobilising considerable firepower and men in a country where military service is compulsory.

influence the economic sectors in which they operate, and seek their contribution to the effort. All that would be required is the will and a bit of organisation. Three cheers for Jordan Television for showing that this can be done.

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ACROSS THE situation map of a United Nations headquarters in Sarajevo, the chinagraph marks charting what they call the "confrontation line" twist and turn for hundreds of kilometres, each loop and curve enclosing its own little local war, each little war contributing to the complex equation that may tell us who is winning and who is losing.

Maps like this, and the daily production of statistics by the U.N. and its agencies — so many thousands of detonations, so many metres advanced, so many tents or blankets or refugees — reduce the Bosnian war to measurable processes of military activity and civilian displacement. Complicated as the war is at this level, it is even more complicated in its other dimensions. Like Spain, like Vietnam, like the Arab-Israeli and South African conflicts, it has acquired a meaning both for the combatants and for the world which cannot be avoided or sidestepped. It is a war for the high ground both physically and morally; it is a war of culture, of nerves, of wits, a war centring on one extraordinary city, a war against the world and a war finally whose outcome will help set the tone, for good or ill, of international politics in the next century.

The Bosnian war, as a military phenomenon, is an intricate struggle for bridges and roads, and especially for the high ground from which artillery fire can be adjusted on towns below. It pits the motivated and numerous infantry of the Bosnian forces, as many as 200,000 men, against the smaller but better armed forces, perhaps 80,000, of the Bosnian Serbs. This is a war in which, in spite of Srebrenica and Zepa, and now Bihać, the Bosnians are doing better.

Jordan, Israel launch

(Continued from page 1)

natural disasters.

In reply to a question about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the war in Bosnia, the Prince said that Jordan demands that the United Nations and the world major powers protect their credibility through sending rapid deployment forces to protect the Bosnians, lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia and providing security for people in the so-called safe havens.

Israel and Jordan are together carrying out a humanitarian mission, thus setting a good example of cooperation for others to copy free of any political, sectarian or ethnic consideration, said the Prince at the press conference, which was attended by the foreign ministers of Bosnia and Croatia.

Jordan, said Prince Hassan, has for the past 10 years been calling for a new international humanitarian order transcending regional, and sectarian considerations. He said that the Jordanian mission was a continuation to Jordan's efforts started in 1992 to extend relief aid to the victims of aggression and sectarianism.

The European Union expressed "horror and indignation" at Monday's bomb attack.

"The EU and its member states once more strongly condemn all acts of violence which, apart from causing the loss of human lives, endanger the current negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis..." it said in a statement.

The EU, whose political commitment to the peace process remains unchanged, conveys its hope that the above attack, carried out by elements which oppose peace... will not affect the pace of the negotiations in which Israelis and Palestinians are immersed," the statement added.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali condemned the "vicious act of violence" that claimed the lives of five Israelis on a bus near Tel Aviv.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said Arab-Israeli peace was the "only guarantee" to bring an end to Muslim militant attacks as he condemned the suicide bombing.

The London conference on the war in Bosnia has produced another burst of vague formulas by the U.N. and NATO for



the defence of Gorazde, Zepa and Bihać, Martin Wollacott, in Sarajevo, insists that the West must not fail again

will. So school children get new textbooks, and physics and students at the university strive to do experiments with electricity from car batteries. To give an idea of the limited basic on which all this is done, textbook writers were each sent to help them in their task, a package containing one quire of typing paper, one typewriter ribbon, and 12 candles. That is luxury for an author in Bosnia today.

The war between willed normality and the panic the Serbs want to induce carries on in many fields, including the fields of Sarajevo itself. Every bit of ground grows cabbages, tomatoes, spring onions.

The window boxes of Sarajevo, with their similar, miniature, crops, shout defiance. "Until this war, I had never realised," one university teacher said,

"what a beautiful and civilised object is a sliced tomato arranged on a clean white plate." The outside world has long joined in this struggle for normality, with visits by artists and theatre producers, with extensive support for the Bosnian media, and with other projects, like the fascinating attempt to get Sarajevo fully plugged into the Internet, to lift its siege at least in cyberspace.

This international engagement, going beyond governments, makes it all the more galling that the Serbian strategy of error has worked so well on the United Nations forces. A tiny state and its little army inflicts almost daily humiliations on the soldiers of nations who could flatten Palestine, or for that matter the ministry of defence on Belgrade, in an afternoon.

This success is very much part of the way in which the Bosnian Serbs maintain, in spite of their dwindling military assets, the initiative of terror in Bosnia. When they frighten the U.N., they frighten the

Bosnians and when they brutalise the Bosnians, they scare the U.N. They strike repeatedly at the hope, still there in Bosnian minds, that the world will finally act against the Serbs, and add to the worries of Bosnian decision-makers. These men ask what guarantee they have that the Serbs will not now aim, not only for Gorazde, but Tuzla or Sarajevo. They believe they could beat them off in the latter two cases, but who can be absolutely certain, given that the Serbs still have a very big edge in heavy equipment? They search for that moment in the war when they can tip the balance of morale against the Bosnian Serbs, and the sight of Mr. Mladic running rings around the U.N. forces, scaring them into inactivity, does not make that easier.

The London conference has come up with a vague formula for action over Gorazde and the supply route into Sarajevo that indicates some readiness by the Western powers to move more forcefully in Bosnia, but leaves many questions hanging in the air. Two dangers are apparent. One is that, as so often before, the U.N. and NATO will fail to deliver. The other is that the Bosnian Serbs will postpone action on Gorazde and will make their next moves elsewhere. The U.N. and NATO should not be legally tied to the defence of one or two places, but should have the flexibility to respond to any manoeuvres by the Bosnian Serbs.

The West stands at a point where it could lose its unity, its reputation, and its self-respect. If this, probably last, opportunity is mismanaged, the fate of Bosnia could be grim one. That of the rest of us will also be unenviable.

The Guardian

Sarajevo as a functioning community without actually taking... Each day, in every way, the Serbs strive to break the carcass of normality, to disrupt the vital routines that keep towns and cities, especially Sarajevo, going... It is well-known that they target radio and television stations, newspaper offices, even art exhibitions or rock concerts, to the extent now that public cultural events have almost ceased. But Bosnians have reshaped their cultural life... News-

papers and broadcasters operate from several dispersed offices or go down into bunkers. The government, meanwhile, places huge emphasis on maintaining the education system, important in itself, but also as a demonstration of

NEWS IN BRIEF

Head of Syria's Communist Party dies

DAMASCUS (R) — Khalid Bakdash, head of Syria's Communist Party for over 58 years, has died of a heart attack at his home in Damascus. A party spokesman said on Tuesday. He told Reuters that Mr. Bakdash, who died on Monday at the age of 83, was buried in Damascus on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by a special representative of Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad. Mr. Bakdash, who joined the Syrian Communist Party in 1930, was one of the founders of Communist in the Arab World. In 1954 he became the first Communist member of parliament in Syria and the Arab World after he won a seat in elections.

Opposition counts on army to help topple Iraqi regime

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Saddam Hussein's opponents are counting on the army to help overthrow the Iraqi president and a plan of action is already being drawn up, an opposition leader said here Tuesday. "For the last six months, we have been proposing an action plan... to fight the regime on the ground because we think political action alone is not enough," said Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir Al-Hakim. "We believe that such action must rely on the Iraqi army," said the Shi'ite Muslim leader of the Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI). He told AFP that an unspecified number of army officers had expressed their support.

Algeria ready for presidential elections — government panel

ALGIERS (AFP) — A governmental electoral commission has determined that all necessary conditions are present for presidential elections in Algeria, press reports said Tuesday. "The organisational, material, technical and financial conditions are present for the correct holding of presidential elections," said the commission's report, filed Monday by government leader Mokdad Sifi to President Liamine Zeroual. The report is to be studied during the next council of ministers to be held at an unspecified date, the prime minister's office said in a statement. "The security question was one of the main concerns of the commission, which sought to put together the necessary conditions for free and peaceful participation of the citizens in the vote," the statement said.

Syrian boat sinks off Ukrainian coast

KIEV (R) — A Syrian-registered cargo ship has sunk in a stretch of water separating Russia and Ukraine off the Crimean Peninsula, shipping officials said on Tuesday. Boris Novosolov, deputy head of Kerch port said the Doja went down on Sunday in heavy seas in the Kerch Strait and all 13 crew had been rescued. He said the vessel had probably foundered when its cargo of glass and timber shifted.

Argentina's Menem meets son of Libyan leader

Buenos Aires (AP) — President Carlos Menem met with the son of Libyan Leader Muammar Qadhafi on Monday for private talks, a presidential spokesman said. The spokesman would not disclose any details about Mr. Menem's meeting with Al-Sadi Muammar Qadhafi. He was accompanied by a business associate, Assed Mohammed, and an interpreter. The meeting with Mr. Menem, the son of Syrian immigrants, lasted approximately one hour at the Buenos Aires presidential residence.

UAE arrests suspected killers

DUBAI (R) — Police in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have arrested two men suspected of robbing and murdering five foreign exchange house couriers while posing as government officials, newspapers said on Tuesday. They

quoted Dubai Police Deputy Director Saeed Al Kamda as saying the men, identified as M.A., a Gulf national, and A.M.F., an Asian, both aged 26, shot the five messengers in separate incidents in Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The two men forced their victims into their car by posing as officials, the newspapers said. "After driving for some time, they would ask the man to get out of the car and then shoot him," he said. "The last victim was killed in the car as he suspected something was wrong and tried to escape. Human blood was split for not more than 10,000 dirhams (\$2,700) each time," Mr. Kamda said.

Kurds kill 12 people in village raid

VAN, Turkey (AP) — Kurdish guerrillas raided a village in this eastern province neighbouring Iran in an overnight attack, killing 12 people, a local official said on Monday. The village apparently came under attack for its collaboration with the Turkish army. Two of the victims were village guards, armed by the government against Kurdish rebels, the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

Sudanese diplomats told to leave Somalia

MUADISI (AFP) — A new organisation calling itself the Somali Interest Group published an ultimatum in Mogadishu newspapers Tuesday giving Sudanese diplomats until August 3 to quit this lawless nation. It warned that their security would not be guaranteed if they failed to leave. Spokesman Hassan Mohamed Kabin accused the diplomats of taking sides in power struggles between clans. Somalia has not had an internationally recognised government since the overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991, and Sudan is the only country maintaining diplomats here.

Fire destroys Gulf island cinema used as women's centre

TEHRAN (AFP) — A movie theatre used as a culture and sporting centre by women on a Gulf island serving as Iran's main oil terminal was destroyed by fire, the daily Akhbar reported Tuesday. No one was hurt in the blaze, which was caused by electrical short circuit, but the incident is under further investigation by authorities on Karak island near the southern port of Bushehr, the paper said.

Libyan's law suit against Israeli leaders postponed

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian court has postponed a law suit brought by a Libyan against Israeli leaders who he accuses of killing his father by shooting down a plane over the Sinai in 1972, legal officials said Tuesday. The Cairo court agreed Monday to defer the hearing until Nov. 29 following a request by the defence. Mohammed Bussir, son of the former Libyan foreign minister Saleh Bussir, is demanding compensation from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the former air force head Beny Peled and former chief of staff David Elazar. His father was among 200 Egyptians and Libyans who died when their civilian plane was shot down over the Egyptian Sinai peninsula by Israeli fighter planes on Feb. 21, 1972.

Unleaded petrol to go on sale in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Unleaded petrol is to go on sale for the first time in Egypt from August 1. Environment Minister Atif Ebeid said the installation of catalytic converters and adjustment of car engines will also be launched next year in 150 petrol stations around the country. Mr. Ebeid told reporters late Monday. The head of Egypt's environmental protection agency, Saleh Hafez, said the amount of lead in petrol had been cut by almost three-quarters and would fall again to 0.15 grams per litre (0.02 ounces per gallon) within a year.

Economy

Gulf official predicts common market by 2000

MUSCAT (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are expected to create a common market before the end of this decade after edging closer to a customs union, a senior Gulf official said in an interview published Monday.

The six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which seek to merge their oil-reliant economies under a 1982 pact, have made progress in unifying their tariffs on foreign imports and a customs union is now in sight, GCC secretary general Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi told the Omani, magazine Al Haras.

"I am optimistic a unified customs tariff will see light before the end of this year and the common market before the end of this century," he said.

Gulf officials have said they have finished the classification of most foreign products which would be either taxed or exempted. More

than 1,100 products would be listed under such a classification.

GCC finance and economy ministers are due to approve the list before they present it in its final form to their heads of state at their annual summit in Muscat in December. Launching of the customs union is subject to endorsement by the GCC leaders.

A customs union was supposed to be set up five years after the 1982 agreement but it was held up by differences among members on the size of the standard tariff. Some members have insisted on high tariffs while others with low duties want it to be moderate in line with their free market policies.

Gulf officials have reported progress following several rounds of negotiations, with a compromise on a tariff of between eight and 10 per cent. The proposals also include

the creation of a fund to collect tax revenues and distribute them proportionately among members.

The 1982 accord also calls for free movement of trade and individuals, alignment of currencies and linking the stock markets of the six members — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A GCC common market, which would be the first in the Middle East, would have a gross domestic product of more than \$200 billion. It would also be the largest oil bloc and one of the biggest consumer markets in the world, with imports of more than \$90 billion a year.

"The GCC's efforts are now concentrating on the implementation of all articles of the economic pact to establish the common market in the coming stage," Sheikh Fahim said.

Industrialists have complained that the high interest rates have propped up the Israeli shekel, undercutting exports. The shekel, at 2.94 to the U.S. dollar, is now at its 1993 level.

Israel's bank lowers interest rate

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Bank of Israel lowered interest rates 0.3 per cent Monday, bringing its lending rate to commercial banks to an annual 13.2 per cent.

The central bank has been steadily lowering interests in recent months after its tight-money policies succeeded in slowing inflation.

Prices rose only some three per cent in the first half of 1994 and annual inflation is expected to be between 6-8 per cent. Inflation in 1993 was 14.5 per cent.

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EU says it is among most open economies to trade

GENEVA (R) — The European Union (EU) argued in a report published on Tuesday that it was among the most open to foreign trade of the major world economies and ahead of the other two top traders, the United States and Japan.

But diplomats said the assertion was disputed at a closed-door meeting of delegations to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by EU trading partners, including the United States, Canada and Brussels.

The EU made the claim in an analysis provided to the WTO as part of the new global trade watchdog's programme of reviews of the trade policies of its members, currently 100.

Trade figures since the last review two years ago under

the old General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) "demonstrate that the EC (EU) has remained one of the most open of all major economies," the Brussels report declared.

On the basis of the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed by trade in goods and services,

the EU with a relatively consistent 22-25 per cent over the past 15 years was more open than the United States, with 21-22 per cent, it said.

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It was well ahead of Japan, for whom the percentage contribution of trade to GDP had declined sharply since the early 1980s to a low of 16 per cent, the analysis said.

A report by the WTO secretariat, the centrepiece of such reviews, did not itself

contest the claim, focussing on describing in neutral terms EU trade policies and the measures adopted to pursue them.

However, trade diplomats said Brussels came under heavy fire during closed-door debate in the fledgling trade body, launched on January 1 to absorb the GATT by the end of this year, from a range of trading nations.

They said Central American countries bitterly criticised the EU over its banana import restrictions, maintained with some changes to protect imports from former European colonies despite GATT findings that they violate world trade rules.

The United States has hit out strongly this year at EU policies ranging from the grain trade through the banana issue to what it sees as Germany's refusal to open up its power-generating industry tenders from U.S. firms.

Issue of the WTO report and the debate coincided with talks in Washington between EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan and top U.S. officials on the over-

UAE insurers wary of new capital requirements

DUBAI (R) — Insurers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) doubt that a new rule requiring them to raise their capital is the answer to weeding out the congested insurance sector.

The economy ministry decided this month to give firms six years to reach a minimum capital of 50 million dirhams (\$13.6 million), up from 10 million dirhams (\$2.73 million).

Ministry officials said the new regulations aimed at forming strong insurance units and ridding the market of small operations with risk potentials.

"The ministry's directive will burden local companies with unneeded additional capital, which will remain idle or otherwise find its way to bank coffers, changing the nature of the insurance op-

eration," said one insurance analyst.

The UAE's large foreign community — about 75 per cent of the two million population — has provided fertile ground for profitable insurance schemes like life insurance.

Other types include marine, property, health and cars — a particularly lucrative field in the UAE where the passion for four-wheel drive vehicles among nationals and foreigners is evident.

A drive to cut public spending by abolishing two decades of generous subsidies on medical care for expatriates has lured foreign insurers to enter what is still seen as a virgin market.

Some insurance executives do see room for regulation.

"The sector needs new regulations to limit competition and stop influx of foreign firms," said one local executive.

For the 19 local companies, only three have capital at or above the new level. Others will have to raise by up to five

times their current capitalisation levels.

Unless smaller firms merge, the new rule will mean adding 539.4 million dirhams (\$147.7 million) to the current aggregate capital of 520.6 million dirhams (\$142.6 million).

But insurance executives argue that a capital increase does not technically eliminate risk, as their activities are governed by UAE laws that prohibit the use of paid-up capital to cover losses without shareholders' approval.

Brokers said the move would also affect the share market.

They said insurance companies would increase their capital by using reserves to issue bonus shares or offer new issues.

"Either way it is going to have a negative effect on profitability," said one broker.

"There will be a lot of angry shareholders."

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Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Tarawneh: 200,000 illegal workers in Jordan

About 200,000 foreign labourers work in Jordan illegally, Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour Saleh Tarawneh said. Mr. Tarawneh said foreign labourers who work legally in the Kingdom number only 42,000. He said Jordan would not resort to mass evictions of illegal workers, but would work on organising the labour market. He noted that only about 2,500 illegal foreign workers were ordered to leave the Kingdom in 1994. Institutions that employ foreign labourers illegally are usually given a deadline to replace these labourers with Jordanian job-seekers, Mr. Tarawneh said. Disclosing that the ministry has sent to the Council of Ministers recommendations aimed at organising the labour market and reducing the number of foreign labourers, he said these recommendations, which would be put to implementation as soon as they are approved by the Cabinet, take into consideration the interests of the productive sectors, mainly the agricultural and services sectors, as well as the interests of Jordanian job-seekers.

The ministry, he stressed, will ensure that none of the economic sectors will be affected by the ministry's measures. The secretary general said the new measures, which will be taken in a bid to reduce the foreign workforce, will exclude workers in the agricultural and services sectors, professors at Jordanian universities and nurses. The new measures, he continued, will aim to make Jordanian job-seekers replace foreigners working in the tourism sector, particularly hotels and first class restaurants. He asserted that Jordan was cooperating with Egypt to organise the flow of Egyptian labourers into the Kingdom.

Dwelling on another topic,

Mr. Tarawneh said Jordanian expatriate workers numbers 330,000, with 200,000 of them working in Arab countries.

He said the number could easily increase in Arab countries which need Jordanian expertise in case restrictions facing Jordanians in these countries are removed (Al Aswaq).

** The technical committee of the Greater Amman Municipality has finalised studying offers presented by 34 foreign companies to establish a garbage recycling plant at the Ruseifa garbage disposal site, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi said. Dr. Abbadi said the municipality's financial committee will discuss in the coming few days financial and technical offers presented by these companies, which include some from Japan, the U.S. and Europe. After opening the sealed bids, said the mayor, the municipality will start looking for financiers for the project and will then select one of the bidders. A preliminary technical study prepared by the municipality estimated that the project would cost JD 20 million (Al Ra'i).

World oil prices lifted by late buying surge

LONDON (R) — World oil prices staged a late surge on Monday inspired by strong buying of crude futures in the United States.

However, London traders were reluctant to predict a rapid turnaround from the \$4 a barrel slide over the past two months.

London September futures for Benchmark North Sea

Brent blend ended six cents higher at \$15.67 a barrel, having hit a new 10-month low early in the day at \$15.41.

Dealers had said weakness on U.S. gasoline markets continued to delay any price recovery. But, after a week of steady falls, U.S. gasoline futures regained \$1.30 a gallon on Monday.

Earlier, dealers had said

the short-term direction was difficult to divine, but believed the odds were growing against any further significant price slide.

"The market is telling us we should not sell the current levels but cover some short positions and see if the market can break upwards," one London-based broker said.

Surplus Iranian cargoes are

weighing on crude markets but key North Sea supply-demand fundamentals appear to have improved in the last day or so, said oil dealers.

"With all these barrels moving out of the region or into storage I would expect (North Sea price) differentials to continue to firm," a North Sea trader said.

Surplus Iranian cargoes are

Iran turns to oil tankers to beat U.S. sanctions

DUBAI (R) — Iran has chartered 28 giant oil tankers in an apparent bid to beat U.S. trade sanctions and maintain hard currency export earnings from oil sales.

The figure was given by Mohammad Souri, chairman of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), which is responsible for securing vessels to export crude produced by the state National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Speaking to Reuters late on Monday, Mr. Souri did not say when the tankers were chartered, but western shipping brokers estimate that NITC has leased approximately 20 vessels from the spot and time-charter tanker market since the beginning of June.

Iran's increasing recourse to the international shipping

market followed White House trade sanctions that came into effect last month and halted an annual trade worth \$4 billion of Iranian oil bought by American oil companies.

The White House imposed sanctions because of Tehran's alleged sponsorship of terrorism and its desire to develop nuclear weapons, charges which Iran consistently denies.

Before the embargo, U.S. firms lifted about one quarter of Iran's crude exports of 2.5 million barrels per day (BPD) and used their own or leased tankers to transport crude from Iranian terminals.

With U.S. firms now banned from going to Iran, NIOC, through NITC, has had to sell more crude on its own behalf, which explains why NITC has stepped up its

tanker chartering activity, industry sources in the Gulf say.

"Due to NIOC's surplus supply of oil, NITC increased its activities accordingly," Souri said.

But Mr. Souri explained the surplus not in terms of U.S. sanctions. He said it was because repair and overhaul work at some of Iran's refineries had freed up oil for export.

He said other factors that were increasing Iran's exports included not weather in Iran that was reducing domestic oil consumption, much of it used for heating.

Oil traders say that fears that NIOC is selling more of its crude on its own account rather than finding long-term customers to

replace lost U.S. sales has led to pressure on oil prices.

NIOC marketing officials say these fears are misplaced and that exports have found markets in Europe and the Far East.

The 28 tankers chartered by NITC are very large crude carriers, which can each load around two million barrels of oil, and ultra large crude carriers, which can carry four million barrels, Mr. Souri said.

Bankers also believe NITC may be booking vessels simply to act as storage vessels, a sign that NIOC may have been encountering difficulties in finding outlets for its sales.

Mr. Souri said that NITC had no immediate or future plans for the use of storage tankers.

Saudi NIC chairman resigns

MANAMA (R) — The chairman of Saudi Arabia's National Industrialisation Company (NIC) announced on Tuesday his resignation from the firm, which is partly owned by Saudi billionaire Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal.

A NIC statement did not give a reason for Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Ghaly's resignation from the NIC Board of Directors and as chairman, a post he had held since April 1994.

Last month, Prince Al Waleed and a group of Saudi investors bought a 50 percent stake in NIC, which has shown net profit declines in

the past two years.

It said last week pre-tax profit in the first half of 1995 fell to 5.7 million riyals (\$1.5 million) compared to 6.3 million riyals (\$1.7 million) in the same period of 1994.

The prince, who is NIC's major shareholder, has a history of rescuing troubled companies, injecting cash and new management into them and turning losses into profits.

NIC, traded in the Saudi market, was established in 1983 to set up petrochemical, chemical, electrical and mechanical engineering projects in the kingdom.

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. dollar in International Markets		
Currency	New York Close Date: 24/7/95	Tokyo Close Date: 25/7/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5952	1.5973**
Deutsche Mark	1.3859	1.3849
Swiss Franc	1.1523	1.1507**
French Franc	4.8163	4.8108**
Japanese Yen	87.50	87.50
European Currency Unit	1.3370	1.3383**

* USD for LTC
** European Opened at 2:30 a.m. GMT

Bancorncy Interest Rates		
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.68
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.68
Deutsche Mark	4.51	4.75
Swiss Franc	8.50	7.62
French Franc	6.37	6.18
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.62
European Currency Unit	6.00	6.00

Interest rate for stereo recording U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals		
Metal	USD/Oz	JDGm*
Gold	386.85	7.50

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Currency	BD	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.6960	.6980
Sterling Pound	1.1095	1.1150
Deutsche Mark	0.5070	0.5044
Swiss Franc	0.6035	0.6065
French Franc	0.1445	0.1455
Japanese Yen	0.7935	0.7975
Dutch Guilder	0.4472	0.4499
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0435	0.0437
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies		
Currency	BD	Offer
Barbarian Dinar	1.8300	1.8450
Lebanese Lira*	0.042100	0.043160
Saudi Riyal	0.1853	0.1866
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1912
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.8000	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1816	0.1900
Greek Drachma*	0.2775	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.5125	1.5925

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3564/74	Deutschmarks
1.3850/60	Dutch guilders
1.5520/30	Swiss francs
1.1506/16	Belgian francs
28.48/52	French francs
4.8075/25	Italian lire
1594.89/98	Japanese yen
87.41/51	Swedish crowns
7.1175/75	Norwegian crowns
6.1550/00	Danish crowns
5.3925/75	
One sterling	\$1.5964/74
One ounce of gold	\$386.55/387.15

Dealers had said weakness on U.S. gasoline markets continued to delay any price recovery. But, after a week of steady falls, U.S. gasoline futures regained \$1.30 a gallon on Monday.

Earlier, dealers had said

the short-term direction was difficult to divine, but believed the odds were growing against any further significant price slide.

"The market is telling us we should not sell the current levels but cover some short positions and see if the market can break upwards," one London-based broker said.

Surplus Iranian cargoes are

weighing on crude markets but key North Sea supply-demand fundamentals appear to have improved in the last day or so, said oil dealers.

"With all these barrels moving out of the region or into storage I would expect (North Sea price) differentials to continue to firm," a North Sea trader said.

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Surplus Iranian cargoes are

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995, 11

Brazil looks for scapegoats for its Copa America loss

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilians on Monday grouped to explain how their World Cup champions had lost the America Cup to Uruguay. There was no shortage of scapegoats.

Many picked Goalie Claudio Taffarel, who stood frozen as Uruguay scored on a free kick. Others cited attacker Tulio, who blew his shot in the penalty-kick tie-breaker. Of course, there was the referee — and even a mystic taboo.

The upshot was a 1-1 (4-2) victory for Uruguay in Montevideo on Sunday, Brazil, which has never won the continental championship away from home, once again was frustrated.

"The celebration for the unprecedented title is postponed," read a headline Monday in the Rio daily *Jornal do Brasil*.

"Uruguayans have the party and the taboo continues," wrote the newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo*.

Brazil dominated the first period, taking a 1-0 lead when Tulio chested in a cross from Edmundo in the 29th minute. But Uruguay took charge in the second half and tied the game on a free kick in the 51st minute.

Taffarel, who looked shaky throughout the tournament, was roundly criticised for failing to move on the kick.

"Going for the ball is a fundamental obligation of the goalie," wrote soccer col-

umnist Sergio Noronha.

Taffarel had to explain over and over what had happened.

"I was surprised," he said in an interview Monday in Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil. "The Uruguayans screened me, and when I was about to go for the ball it was too late."

In the tie-break, it was Tulio's turn to be the goat. His shot in the centre of the goal was blocked by Uruguayan keeper Fernando Alvez, and his teammates were flawless in their attempts.

Taffarel, who blocked a penalty kick against Italy to give Brazil and World Cup title last summer and two more against Argentina in the America Cup quarterfinal, came up empty against Uruguay.

"First in the world, second in the Americas," said the Rio daily *O Dia*. "Tulio hands over the gold... the heroes against Argentina fail at the decisive moment."

For President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the culprit was Mexican referee Arturo Brizio. He invalidated a second Brazilian goal on grounds that Tulio was offside, although the attacker was not involved in the play.

"He took a goal away from us," Cardoso said in Brasilia, the capital.

"Every time Brazil attacked, he raised his hand," said



Supporters of the Uruguayan soccer team celebrate their team's win (AFP photo)

Nascimento — better known as Pele — said the problem was the line judge who kept signalling offside.

"He took a goal away from us," Cardoso said in Brasilia, the capital.

"Going for the ball is a fundamental obligation of the goalie," wrote soccer col-

Pele.

The defeat evoked memories of Brazil's historic 2-1 loss to Uruguay in the final of the 1950 World Cup in Rio, when

nearly 300,000 fans in Maracana Stadium.

"The Brazilian team couldn't break the taboo... and Brazil is silent again," wrote the Rio daily *Jornal*

Malaysia beats Jordan in Asian Women's Basketball Championship

By Aileen Banayan
in Shizuoka

out in the last eight minutes of the match, while Hala Muheisin and Hind Ghouri carried four fouls.

Jordan will Wednesday play Hong Kong in the six-nation Level B competition.

In other Level B matches Tuesday, the Philippines beat Hong Kong 73-64 and Thailand overcame Indonesia 63-26.

It certainly was not Jordan's day as the team missed the efforts of two key players: Suhair Makusi, who was injured during warm-up Monday, and Jehane Abdounour, who suffered an ankle injury in the first half of Tuesday's match.

The Kingdom's team, regrouped after a 12-year absence and playing in their first Asian championship, displayed the ill-effects of having only four practice matches prior to the championship. On the other hand, the Malaysian team proved they were playing for the Level B trophy as they had a full court-press defence throughout most of the match. Malaysia won the first half 43-15.

Jordan improved in the second half which ended 39-23 for Malaysia. Junmana Salihi was Jordan's top scorer with 17 points. Salihi and Rania Dajani were fouled

Kazakhstan 107-39 and Taiwan beat Kyrgyzstan 109-64.

On the opening day, defending champion China trounced Kazakhstan 156-42, South Korea beat Kyrgyzstan 122-63 and Japan beat Taiwan 98-75.

Level A's top three teams will represent Asia in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

The top two teams in a round robin among the six teams meet Sunday to decide the champion. The next two in the round robin standings meet the same day to determine the winner of the third place.

Snippets from Shizuoka

* Jordan's delegation received a Fax from Jordan's Ambassador in Tokyo Farouq Qasrawi who stressed the importance of the Kingdom's participation in the championship and confirmed that he would attend Jordan's match against Hong Kong Wednesday.

* The Jordanian team is the favourite of the crowds, with fans always asking players for autographs. The reason, it seems, is that it is the only Arab team participating in the championship, travelling from the other edge of Asia to play in Japan. This seems also to be the reason for the encouragement and praise which the team receives from other teams' coaches and officials.

* Certainly it was not Jordan's day! Not only were the team's players Jehane and Suhair injured, but also the Japanese guide accompanying the delegation had an ankle injury.

Fastlink

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U.S. official says success of MENA will largely depend on private sector

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The success of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA), which will be held in Amman in October, will depend on efforts the private sector and the countries of the region are prepared to exert despite international support for the event, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Joan Spero, U.S. under-secretary of State for business, economic and agricultural affairs, said the success of the summit largely hinges on the private sector initiatives rather than those of the governments.

In a Worldnet dialogue via satellite, Ms. Spero told participants in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan, that the aim of organising MENA was to attract small and medium-size businesses to take an active role in the development of the region.

"The whole idea of organising (MENA) is not to let the governments pay the money," she said. "What

the governments will spend is aimed at mobilising the private sector."

Ms. Spero said that although Americans and Europeans will help in organising and encouraging investors all over the world to take an effective part in the summit and initiate joint ventures, the Middle East countries, including Arab Gulf states, should have a pivotal role in initiating ventures.

The development of the region will benefit everybody. We are urging our expatriates in many countries to participate. We are working heavily with small businesses, but we need businesses initiated from the region itself. If we know the region well, the people in the region know it better than us," she said.

"Syrians have been definitely invited by the Jordanians and are welcomed to attend even though they have not reached a peace agreement with Israel," Ms. Spero said.

She said while international experts are still studying the proposal for ex-

pecting up a Middle East development bank the European stand on the proposal is still unclear.

"Not all European countries have the same stand. Some are sceptical, some are enthusiastic. But we hope to reach an agreement before the summit" is held, she said.

Ms. Spero said the bank will primarily aim at facilitating, and encouraging regional cooperation to initiate business ventures and bring capital to the region.

Asked about the differ-

ence in amounts of aid the U.S. gives to Arab countries and Israel, Ms. Spero said the U.S. is cutting down on its budget expenses for international programmes. She said that the U.S. is directing its attention towards the role of the private sector in the development of the region rather than letting the countries depend on foreign aid.

"There needs to be a political signal and the governments have to play a role in that ... We cannot change the psychology (of the people in the region) overnight. But the process of confidence-building is being established in Casablanca and Amman."

"But Amman is only a landmark, it has to be followed," she said.

MENA's plenary session will focus on four major themes: trade and industry, infrastructure, investment and finance, and the economic environment.

ereted to make investors feel more secure.

"The region has been under-developed because of instability," she said. "Safety and security encourage capital to come back. If you (succeed) in bringing back capital, the whole region will blossom."

"But the peace process is not enough," Ms. Spero said, adding that business interaction between Egypt and Israel did not develop significantly despite the signing of a peace treaty between the two states over 15 years ago.

"There needs to be a political signal and the governments have to play a role in that ... We cannot change the psychology (of the people in the region) overnight. But the process of confidence-building is being established in Casablanca and Amman."

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STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE: Bosnian villagers took position outside Sarajevo Tuesday from the hamlet of Pazaric fork near hay (AFP photo)

SOLIMON

Artist sprays U.K. judge with green paint

LONDON (R) — An angry artist attacked a British judge with a can of paint Monday after he cautioned her that he might revoke her bail on an assault charge. Annarita Muraglia, 24, ran past stunned court officials and covered Judge Andrew Brooks in green paint before she was led out of the London courtroom screaming and struggling. Ms. Muraglia's lawyer said the attack had not been planned and added that the only reason she had the paint in her handbag was because she was an artist. "Well, she can practise painting at some other place, not in my court to my detriment," Judge Brooks said after postponing the case for two weeks. Ms. Muraglia was found guilty of contempt of court and remained in custody until Aug. 7.

Alleged bones of Anastasia to be DNA-tested

LONDON (AFP) — Bones claimed to be those of Grand Duchess Anastasia, who according to legend survived the murder of the Russian imperial family in 1918, are to be brought to Britain for DNA testing. The Guardian newspaper reported Tuesday. A Bulgarian scientist says the tests on the bones — currently in Bulgaria — will end decades of controversy over the story of Anastasia's survival of the execution of Tsar Nicholas II and his family by the Bolsheviks, according to the paper. The remains of a woman known as Eleonora Albertova were exhumed earlier this month in Gabrovo, eastern Bulgaria.

The Islamic Act

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Baghdad destroys missile-making machines

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraq has destroyed five machines for making banned missile engines, three years after it declared they had been eliminated in Gulf war raids, a U.N. source in the region said Tuesday.

Iraq, which has promised to disclose all aspects of its germ warfare programme by the end of July, also gave a draft report on the programme to U.N. experts visiting Baghdad last week. The U.N. source said without giving details.

The U.N. missile monitoring team, which is based in Baghdad, "oversaw the destruction" in the last week of the five machines Iraq acquired for making missile engines, according to the source who requested anonymity.

Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, said after a mission to Baghdad a month ago that Iraq "stated that it refused to destroy these items."

It took UNSCOM until this year to identify the equipment Iraq acquired for a project to make missile engines. Mr. Ekeus said in a July 2 report.

Iraq had "declared in its 'Full, Final and Complete Disclosure' in the missile area of May 1992, that the enemy air raids... resulted in a total destruction of all machines and equipment" of this project, he recalled.

Under U.N. Resolution 687 passed after the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq must eliminate

Anti-French feelings on the rise Australia to lobby Europe against Paris

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia may send a delegation to lobby European governments to pressure France over its decision to resume nuclear testing in the Pacific, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Tuesday.

Mr. Evans told reporters in Melbourne anything that would effectively communicate the intensity of opposition in the Australian community to the tests was worth considering.

But he added: "Whether it makes sense to put a score of politicians on a boat or whether it is better to rather have a political delegation to the other capitals of Europe and try and intensify the political pressure upon the French from those sorts of sources is a matter of judgment."

At least one cabinet minister, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura from Japan, is to be among more than 60 MPs who will sail to the nuclear test site in Mururoa Atoll a boatload of parliamentarians from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, Austria and Denmark.

The joint organiser of the mission to Mururoa, Labour MP Franca Arena, said MPs from all parties and all Australia's parliaments, state and federal, would be represented on the ship.

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But he added: "Whether it makes sense to put a score of politicians on a boat or whether it is better to rather have a political delegation to the other capitals of Europe and try and intensify the political pressure upon the French from those sorts of sources is a matter of judgment."

Three rebel Labour Party MPs led by Avigdor Kahalani want to shackle the government with legislation requiring a majority of 70 of the 120 deputies to vote in favour of handing back the Golan.

In the event of a referendum, which Mr. Rabin has pledged to hold before returning any significant area of the plateau as a part of a

peace treaty, the bill would require a majority of 65 per cent.

Mr. Rabin has warned his party that if the bill, which has right-wing opposition support, is voted into law it will mean "the end of the peace process" with Syria.

"President (Hafez Al) Assad does not make a difference between a vote on a preliminary reading and a first reading," Mr. Rabin has warned.

Party managers were trying to persuade the trio to drop the bill and at the same time to ensure a maximum number of votes for the coalition.

A court in the southern city found 16 defendants not guilty of charges of participating in the demonstration, examining magistrate Nabil Wahbi said.

Mr. Goldstone also accused them of having shelled numerous groups of civilians, of pillage, the destruction and appropriation of property and the destruction of sacred sites.

They are also accused of ordering the hostage-taking of 284 U.N. peacekeeping in June and "using them as human shields to avoid new NATO airstrikes."

In addition, the pair are implicated "through their actions or their non-intervention" in ambushes in Sarajevo that claimed a large number of civilian lives.

The tribunal's chief prosecutor, South African judge Richard Goldstone, said the charges bear on "acts committed from April 1992 against the Muslim and Croat populations of Bosnia," who were "persecuted for national, political and religious motives."

Another 22 people were named in the indictment, in-

cluding Milan Martic, President of the self-declared Serb Republic of Krajina comprising Croatian Serb-held land in Croatia. Mr. Martic is accused of responsibility for May 2 bombing of Zagreb.

Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Martic were charged with "the internment of thousands of people in camps where they were subjected to bad physical and psychological treatment" and where they were exposed to "inhuman conditions."

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Bosnia authorities have previously said that they would cooperate fully with the tribunal, which was set up by the U.N. Security Council, and turned over to the court a case they had initiated against Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Martic.

Another 22 people were named in the indictment, in-

nuclear tests in the Pacific, according to an opinion poll published Tuesday by Jiji Press.

Some 5.8 per cent of Japanese now say they do not like France, according to the poll conducted from July 13 to 16 among 2,000 adults.

In a poll last month, only one per cent said so, and only rarely has the number risen above that percentage, the agency said.

The